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"I can go wherever I want whenever I want to."

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Return of the Dragon

Englishman comes to second home, hoping to atone for childhood mischief

By Xiao Rong

For 65 years, he has lived with the guilt.

But 70-year-old James Alan Gilman will return to Qingdao — where he spent two and a half years of his childhood — and return his treasured "dragon tooth" to the local aquarium in October.

His letter to the *Qingdao Morning Post* was published last week, expressing his desire to apologize for stealing one of the aquarium's treasures in 1938.

In stealing the tooth he risked the death of his whole family at the hands of Japanese invaders. But Gilman's guilt does not derive solely from this. Nor does the theft of a Chinese "relic" really explain why Gilman has kept the tooth in a matchbox for 65 years.

The relic itself remains of negligible value. Yet for Gilman himself, it is priceless for its deeper meaning — an attachment to a unique place and time in history, a time of suffering for his friends, for a city and indeed, for an entire people.

"There is no guilt like that of an undeserving survivor; and that guilt was encapsulated for me in the tiny tooth of a Chinese dragon, or crocodile," he wrote.

The "childish lust after a trifling treasure", as Gilman put it in the letter, almost cost his family their berth on the last boat out of Qingdao before the advancing Japanese army.

"Coupled with this was the deep unease of my awareness of the terminal fate of our friends who — not being in any position to flee the advancing troops as we had been — had nevertheless bravely come to wave us away to freedom."

Beijing Today contacted Gilman, now living in Durham, north England, and learnt his unforgettable story through e-mail.

Cunning plan

It was on the last day of escaping Qingdao that James and his elder sister Joan managed to steal the "dragon tooth" for which he had been longing.

The aquarium was within walking distance of his house. He and Joan were frequent visitors, fascinated by the fish and sea creatures on display.

But especially fascinating for James, 5, was a dragon exhibit on one of the lower shelves.

"I guess I would have liked to have had the whole dragon for a present, but nobody was going to ever give a little boy a present like that!" he wrote.

It seemed to him that the next best thing was to have a part of it, and the only part of it he could remove was one of its teeth.

"Every time we went there I headed straight for the beast and tried to work out how I could extract one of its teeth."

The chance came at last when James's

father managed to get the family on board the *Fu Ching*, a cargo ship bound for Shanghai.

"I knew if I didn't take it then, I would never be able to, and I knew I'd never see a dragon in England which was, for me, a foreign country — I spoke no English at the time, only Mandarin, and had to learn English after we arrived in England," wrote Gilman.

The two children stole away from the ship and headed off for the aquarium.

"I had no tools with me, and my sister refused to help me — only on lookout duty — so I had to prise it out with my fingers, which was very hard, as I was only 5 years old!"

When the two finally ran back to the ship with their booty, their parents proved angry indeed.

"They were very frightened that we might be left behind, or that the ship would be delayed leaving the port and we would all be left behind."

Dragon or shark?

Experts from Qingdao Aquarium presumed the "dragon tooth" Gilman had stolen would possibly be that of a shark or a whale, as there were two sharks and one whale displayed in the aquarium around 1938.

"There were no freshwater fish specimens in the 1930s, and so the tooth couldn't be that of a dragon or a crocodile," said Zhang Yuqin, director of the scientific promotion department of Qingdao Aquarium.

Specimens of sea animals were mostly destroyed after the invasion, and the aquarium was used to display transport models and mineral specimens.

"The tooth may be of little scientific value, but it has been a record of history and friendship. We will open a special window for the tooth with a posy," said Zhang.

Guilty past

"What matters is not the tooth itself or whatever kind of creature it may have come from. What matters, to me, is that it is a token of all that happened that day, not to us, but to those we left behind in Qingdao," Gilman told *Beijing Today*.

The day he stole the tooth has since become the most significant day of his life, said Gilman.

"Perhaps the most fateful day of my life, because in doing so I nearly condemned my own family to capture by the Japanese, and because it was such a fateful day for all those we left behind in Qingdao who were unable to escape as we did."

He always felt it would be wrong to throw the tooth away.

"The feeling of guilt has been there in the background all my life, and has intensified ever since I became old enough to understand two things: the terrible



Residents hear a team of officials introduce the new election system.

Photo by Wu Qiang

Neighbors Elect First Committee

By Sun Ming

The city saw its first neighborhood committee elected by the residents themselves last Saturday.

Jiudaowan was selected as a trial area for the future adoption of such elections citywide, said officials with the Dongcheng District Civil Affairs Department.

Of 1,990 residents, 1,813 cast their votes in the first ever democratic multi-candidate election of a local community chief and officials in the central residential area of Dongcheng district. Nine members of Jiudaowan Committee including one director and one vice-director were elected from the 11 candidates.

In the past, candidates in such elections were nominated by higher organs. This time, all the candidates were either nominated by residents in the community or entered into the contest on their own.

"It's very different from before. I knew all the candidates," retired teacher Wang Jingxi told *Beijing Today*. "Most of them were nominated by our residents directly so the turnout was much higher than before."

Indeed, the turnout was 95 percent. The 81-year-old man took his 18-year-old granddaughter and three other family members to the polling booth in the playground of Dongsishi Shisiantiao Primary School.

"It's a pity I quit," 53-year-old Bai Guangrui told *Beijing Today*. She regretted not running for election.

"I knew the age limit was 55, but I was still afraid people would laugh at me," the kindergarten teacher explained.

"News I heard from TV yesterday had a great impact on me. A 50-year-old woman passed the entrance examination to university and will become a college student. I lack courage."

Bai said she had excellent administrative skills. She

was the director of the instruction department of a high school for 12 years and the principal of a kindergarten for 10 years.

Inspired by neighbors, 44-year-old Chang Caixia entered the election contest. A saleswoman from Heping Plaza, she lost her job last year.

"To be frank, I hope to find a job through the election," said Chang to *Beijing Today*. "Today I feel great because lots of people greeted me and encouraged me."

Chang failed at the end with 870 ballots.

Sang Liming, the only male candidate in the election, also failed with 778.

"I'll try my best to convert the concept that only a woman can take office in a neighborhood committee," said Sang to *Beijing Today*. He believes he is competent for the job. Sang was once a mechanic, but now he is jobless.

Three days before the election on August 14, two meetings were held in the community. The 11 candidates gave lectures and answered questions from about 2,000 voters.

"I could behave better," candidate Cao Jianjun, also a former director of Jiudaowan Neighborhood Committee, said to *Beijing Today*.

"We were asked to make speeches without lecture notes. You know, I haven't faced so many people before, to say nothing of speaking to them. I was too nervous to remember what I had prepared in advance."

But Cao was satisfied with her performance when she answered questions from voters. Cao promised to find jobs for jobless people within 24 hours as long as they didn't make high demands, which was applauded by many in the audience.

Cao succeeded with 1,494 ballots and will be the director of Jiudaowan Neighborhood Committee for three years.

Background:

In the past, the state-owned enterprise work unit provided for most of people's daily needs and necessities. But with the advent of a market economy in China, the functions of a community committee in the cities is growing stronger.

Neighborhood committees in cities have similar roles and functions to the village committees in China's rural areas. The central government has promoted direct village elections over the last 12 years, but the election of urban community officials was previously conducted by representatives of residents.

fate that befell virtually all our family's friends in Qingdao — and, indeed, in other parts of China — who were unable to escape the Japanese occupation; and how close I came, through my silly childish desire for a tooth, to placing my own family in the same situation."

Gilman hasn't told anyone, even his wife and children, about the story. He thought no one, other than his sister

and parents — now dead — could truly understand.

"I suppose I feel it is rather a Chinese thing to do: to say 'sorry' to those who died, on behalf of those still alive; and returning the tooth is a symbol of this," he wrote.

Pilgrimage

Born in Beijing, Gilman is now chairman of the International Committee for



"There is no guilt like that of an undeserving survivor; and that guilt was encapsulated for me in the tiny tooth of a Chinese dragon."
— James Alan Gilman, chairman, International Committee for Marco Polo studies

Photos provided by James Alan Gilman

Marco Polo Studies.

He had planned to return the tooth one year ago. However, due to sickness from blood poisoning, his scheduled visit last August had to be postponed.

He will apologize to the curator of the aquarium and then visit the cemetery where friends lie buried, said Gilman. "I shall then say 'sorry' on behalf of my family to all those who didn't make it out of Qingdao when we did.

"This will be an act of contrition and apology after which I hope I shall be at peace."

His visit to Qingdao, he wrote, was "a pilgrimage to the place where the paths of our own life diverged so dramatically and completely from the paths of all those we left behind".

"I can do nothing now for them, just as I could do nothing for them back on that day.

"All I have is the tooth."

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Policy Forum

Foreign Copyright Cases to Be Handled by State and Local Administrations

By Shan Jinliang

Starting September 15, both the State Copyright Administration and local administrations will have the rights to handle complaints in foreign-related copyright cases, as stipulated by the newly printed Copyright Law Implementation Regulation.

Issued by the State Council early this month, the new reg-

ulation gives a detailed explanation of China's copyright law, first enacted on June 1, 1991.

The previous regulation gave sole rights to handling complaints from foreigners about copyright infringement to the State Copyright Administration. Li Mingde, director of the Intellectual Property Research Center of the Academy of Sciences, said the change was made to meet

the need of the rapidly growing number of foreign-related copyright cases, but added the procedures for handling cases have not been touched.

Copyright administrations have the rights to impose administrative penalties for the following acts: piracy, illegal for-profit copying and distribution of products, distribution of tape and video recordings without permis-

sion, the production and distribution of radio and TV programs without permission and the production and sale of artworks under others' names.

"The new regulation can work as a reference for the current copyright law and for the judging of cases," said Li.

He suggested all foreign parties looking to file complaints about copyright violation to con-

sult international treaties such as the Trips protocol, the intellectual property contract related to World Trade Organization rules as part of China's obligations for entry into the organization, the Bern Convention on the protection of literary and artistic works, and the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty, to find support for their cases.

Breaking News

Beijing Suspends Issuing of Personalized Plates

Beijing's traffic authority on Thursday announced the suspension of the issuing of new license numbers to vehicle owners, ending a ten-day spending spree on personalized number plates.

The Beijing Traffic Administration issued a notice saying that registration of the new license numbers was suspended due to technical problems, but did not give a set date its resumption.

Four cities in China, Beijing, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Shenzhen, began to allow car owners to freely choose their license plate letters and numbers from August 12.

Over 10,000 car owners in Beijing have chosen their own combinations of letters and numbers during the last ten days. Some waited for up to ten hours in long queues.

Although the administration did not give any clear explanation why the registration came to a sudden halt, some suspect that over-creative naming of license numbers might be part of the reason.

Since car owners were free to choose any sequence or combination of letters and numbers, except "CHN," some chose "SEX," "911," "WTO," "USA" and so on.

According to Ministry of Public Security rules, the city will resume using the 1992 method of issuing license numbers by computer selection of five numbers until the new method of registration is resumed. (Xinhua)

Private Capital Leading Reform Trend in Civil Air Industry

By Shan Jinliang

Junyao Group became the first private shareholder in a Chinese civil airline with the establishment of Eastern Airlines Wuhan Corp. on August 18, according to a CCTV report.

The new company, which has 600 million yuan in registered capital, is a sign of the wave of reorganization sweeping through the country's civil air industry. Eastern Airlines and Wuhan Airlines, the predecessor of the new air company, will each hold 40% shares in the airline, Junyao will have a 18% stake and the remaining 2% will belong to Wuhan High-tech Shareholding Corp.

A top official from Eastern Airlines Wuhan Corp. who requested anonymity said Junyao's capital injection could break the domestic monopoly of China's civil aviation industry and promote the industry's reorganization.

Shanghai-based Junyao Group was established in 1995 by Wang Junyao from Wenzhou City, Zhejiang province, and has since grown into a conglomerate covering the civil air service, diary and auto service industries.

Actually, China's private capital has joined in the civil airline industry and its related industry this year. Anhui-based Anqing Mingxin Industrial Corp reached an agreement to operate the Anqing-Wenzhou air route in cooperation with the civil air bureau of Anqing City early this year. It was the first time for a private company to inject capital into the running of a domestic air route.

Guangzhou Baiyun (White Cloud) Airport, one of the top three airports in China, established a joint venture, Easy-to-Board Commercial and Tourism Service Corp., with Guangdong Huahao Industrial Corp this July in a breakthrough for the introduction of private capital in domestic airport operation.

First Privately-Funded Securities Company Established

By Shan Jinliang

The establishment of Minsheng Securities, the first domestic securities company funded mostly through private capital, was announced in Beijing on August 18.

Over 50 percent of the capital for the launch of the firm was injected by major domestic private companies.

With the approval from the national securities watchdog the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC), the new company has set up a nationwide comprehensive network with a registered capital of 1.282 billion yuan. It currently operates 15 offices in such cities as Shanghai, Shenzhen and Zhengzhou, and new branches in Beijing, Guangzhou and Hangzhou are under construction.

Du Chunyin, chairman of the board of Minsheng Securities, said his company will focus on the capital operation of small and medium-sized companies during their growing periods.



The Yingjia Ciwu Gold Mine is believed to have 574 kilograms of gold deposits.

Xinhua Photo

Overseas Firm's Absence Opens Doors at Bidding for Gold Mine

By Shan Jinliang

Behre Dolbear, one of the world's leading mine consulting companies, ducked out of China's first open bidding for gold mine exploitation rights in Nanchang, Jiangxi province, on the morning of August 18, opening the door to smaller players.

It was the first time that privately-owned firms were allowed to take part in a domestic mine auction.

After half an hour of heated bidding at 9:30 am, Nanfang Mechanical Engineering Corp, a privately-owned company, beat out three competitors to win the initial rights. The company, based in Shangrao, Jiangxi, paid two million yuan for the four-year exploitation rights to the Yingjia Ciwu Gold Mine, located in Shangrao County, northwestern Jiangxi. Those same rights were originally valued at 2.2 million yuan by Beijing Hongwei Assets Evaluation Corp.

Notice of the auction was announced in the Hong Kong's newspaper *Wenweipo* on July 31 and aired on CCTV, the national television station, on August 3 by the Jiangxi provincial Administration of State Land and Resources, saying any economic organizations or individuals in China could participate in the public auction.

One day before the original planned bidding activity on August 7, the organizer, Nanchang Mine Property Rights



Lin Jun (center), representative of Nanfang Chemical Engineering, makes a bid.

Photo by Huang Zhiwen

Trading Center, found one only company had applied to participate and decided to delay the auction by ten days to August 18. Two days after the delay was announced, UK-based Behre Dolbear sent a note to Liu Maoqing, director of the center, requesting to attend the auction.

On the grounds that the company is wholly foreign-based, its application was turned down. However, Li Hongchang, vice head of the Jiangxi provincial Administration of Land and Resources, said that besides encouraging foreign companies to get involved in fine processing at mines, it also allowed overseas companies operating subsidiaries or joint ventures in China to join in the auction.

Since 1949, gold has been the subject of rigid restrictions as a resource under state protection, meaning foreign capital has been barred from the domestic gold industry.

After the State Council issued a regulation on mine resources transfers in 1998, 21 municipalities, provinces and autonomous regions have transferred mine exploiting rights, 14 times through public bidding. Companies from Canada and Australia have established cooperative relations for the development of gold mines in Liaoning and Sichuan provinces, according to a report from the *Land and Resources News*.

Cooperation Aimed at Protecting Peking Man

By Shan Jinliang

Years of criticism from the public and the media about the poor conditions of Beijing's Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site seem finally to have struck a nerve, as a new management system to be jointly overseen by the Beijing Municipal Government and the Chinese Academy of Sciences has been installed at the historical area.

Earlier this month, 14 of the 28 areas in China listed as World Heritage Sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), including the Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site, began internal examinations in preparation for approaching investigations by the UN organization.

Beijing city mayor Liu Qi and Academy of Sciences president Lu Yongxiang signed a contract in Beijing on August 16 that calls for the city government to be in charge of protection,

construction, management and promotion of the site, and the academy to be responsible for scientific research. The two sides have established a managing coordination committee for the Peking Man Site, which will guide the completion of the plan for the site's protection and construction and coordinate any major changes made in the area.

The Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site in Fangshan District is the site of the discovery of the remains of an ancient human over 600,000 years old, dubbed Peking Man. It was approved by the central government as a state-level cultural relic in 1961 and entered UNESCO's list of World Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites in 1987.

Since 1949, the site, including its museum, has been under the protection and management of the Institute of Ancient Vertebrates and Human Kind of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The institute had little money

to put into upkeep of the site, and the minimal funds for its protection came in from the city's Bureau of Cultural Relics.

Years of paltry funding have left the site's museum looking shabby, with few bilingual exhibit introductions and poor display conditions. Visitors to the site have fallen off sharply, plunging from around 200,000 a year in the 1980s to 30,000 to 50,000 per year in the late 1990s. Many archaeologists fear the area is in danger of losing its Heritage Site status.

The Peking Man was early last century discovered by chance by locals while producing lime. Today, local residents have been forced to abandon the building material industry, formerly a pillar of the area's economy, in the interests of environmental protection. The planned improvement of the site is a source of hope for the future of the area's fading tourism industry.

Olympic Security Up for Initial Public Bids

By Li Xiaowei

Public bids for the security system for the 2008 Olympics will be received at the Olympic Venue Construction Bidding Meeting to be held next month.

On Tuesday, the Beijing Police released the "Bidding Documents for the Construction of the Olympic Venues Security System" as a reference to potential bidders.

The documents refer to nine venues, including the National Stadium, National Indoor Stadium, National Swimming Center, International Exhibition Center, Main Press Center and Wukesong Cultural and Sports Center within the Olympic Green. Bids will be received for seven systems, covering telecommunications, command, fire fighting, anti-terrorism and anti-violence.

Real Estate Favored for Foreign Bucks

By Yu Yang

The Beijing Municipal Foreign Relations & Economic Trade Commission announced on August 16 that tertiary industry, including the real estate, service and retail fields, was the favored target of investment by foreign companies in the first seven months of this year.

Foreign companies invested in 461 projects related to tertiary industry, accounting for 60.7% of all projects receiving overseas funding, and total investment in the industry reached \$890 million, making up 60.4% of all foreign investment in the city. Overall investment in real estate projects rose 32.5% from the same period of last year.

Beside real estate, foreign companies have shifted their investment focuses to information consulting, computer services and logistics. Seventeen logistics companies and 15 retailing businesses in Beijing have been set up with foreign funds. Investment from Europe rose 45.1% compared to the same period of last year; funding from Japan jumped 103.2% and investment from South Korea shot up 102.8%.

Audio Pirates Blocked from Market

By Yu Yang

The Ministry of Culture announced on July 29 that audio companies found selling pirated products will be barred from the market for ten years.

The move is a new tack in the battle against the rising wave of piracy in China. The ministry launches several-month long campaigns against fake and pirated products as part of its routine annual work, but they have yet to root out the problem.

The Ministry has established the "National Database of Companies and Individuals Blocked from the Market" on the China Audio & Film web (<http://av.ccnt.com.cn>), and made the list open to the public.

The database will contain the names of companies and individuals that run illegal audio businesses that have received criminal penalties, or those that open wholesale, retail, rental, screening and e-commerce businesses without approval from the state. Also on the list will be individuals who run audio businesses, organizations, including their leaders and legal persons, which have had their licenses withdrawn, and other groups that have committed illegal actions. At present, the database is empty.

The Ministry of Culture requires all local departments in charge of the culture industry to check the database before approving any new company. According to the new regulation, "Companies recorded in the database will be forbidden from opening new businesses, and individuals listed will not be allowed to take office as company legal persons, managers or leaders."



From left Gric's Hong Chen, SINA's Wang Yan, 263.net's Basil Huang

Portal Offers Internet Roaming Service

By Yang Xiao

SINA, China's leading Internet portal has announced a cooperation with GRIC Communications and 263.net to launch a new "Internet roaming service."

The global remote Internet access service is developed by GRIC, SINA will be the platform while 263.net provides the Internet access.

Business executives these days need to continually update their e-mail and other information on the net as they travel around the globe. Mobile professionals need to access their company databases via secure, fast and stable connections.

The cooperation promises enterprise-level customers an Internet access service on a global base.

Hong Chen, CEO of GRIC claims that the company provides a global solution for business travelers worldwide, with a network of more than 300 top-tier ISPs and telecommunication companies in 150 countries. It has a global network reach of more than 15,000 Internet dialing locations worldwide, covering over 160 countries, over 7,000 of which are outside the US. The fees for roaming service is higher than local access fees but much lower than the traditional method on accessing the Internet.

Wang Yan, president of SINA stresses that SINA will strengthen its advantages on branding, marketing and technology to unite its business partners in the future.

Basil Huang, COO of 263.net says 263 will provide internationalized service for Chinese citizens. Meanwhile he estimates the service will be available to all Internet users in the near future.

Nokia CEO Presented Honorary Beijing Citizenship

By Xu Ying

Jorma Ollila, Chairman and CEO of Nokia Corporation was awarded honorary Beijing citizenship last Thursday in a ceremony hosted by Mayor Liu Qi. Nokia is the largest provider of mobile phones and broadband network systems in China.

Honorary citizenships were inaugurated in the early 1980s, as a way of recognizing those who make major contributions to Beijing's development. Eighteen people have received the honor so far. Ollila is the first non-Asian corporate leader to be granted honorary citizenship.

In his speech at the ceremony, Mayor Liu said, "Nokia has contributed greatly to the social and economic development of Beijing. Xingwang Industrial Park is a benchmark project in hi-tech industry development, leading the way for the hi-tech industry."

Ollila expressed his gratitude to the municipal government and the people of Beijing, saying, "It is the third time this year for me to come to Beijing. Whenever I come I can feel the changes in Beijing, and this time I do see lots of endeavors being done by the municipal government and people for the 2008 Olympic Games. Regularly, Nokia Executive Board has its meetings held in China. This again demonstrates the importance of China and Beijing to Nokia's development."

Domestic Domain Names Open to Foreign Companies

By Su Wei

The Ministry of Information Industry has released a new set of regulations governing domain names in China, with the aim of encouraging the registration of more .cn domestic domain names.

"It is the first time that foreign companies can directly register .cn domain names under their own names," says Liu Zhijiang, deputy director of China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC). "They do not need to find an agent. Companies can register online with CNNIC's registered partners, and their .cn domain names are ready within six hours."

The application fees for foreign and domestic companies will be the same. "The registration for foreign companies will begin around November," says Liu.

Liu also says that application fees for individuals have been reduced. The new regulations will go into effect as of September 30.

HOME APPLIANCE

Lu's Fourth Beginning

Marketing talent Lu Qianghua has started again in the home appliance business, this time as his own boss

By Yang Xiao

The home appliances sector boasts a few magicians in the areas of sales and marketing. Lu Qianghua is one of them. After his former boss Huang Shiling, chairman of Dongling Electronics was arrested late last month in Shanghai, it was rumored that Lu had undermined Huang. On August 17, Lu responded, saying, "Huang's case is not related with me." As a result, Lu has again come to prominence.

Lu became general manager of Huang's Dongling Electronics at the end of 2000. Lu took over a sales team that included 150 senior and intermediate managers to rebuild the color TV brand Conrowa. At that time Huang, a friend of 13 years, had used up all the company's capital gambling on the Hong Kong securities market, his only remaining asset was the brand which was once among the top 10 in the TV industry.

Lu borrowed over 400 million yuan to run the business. He created the idea that all his raw materials providers and sales distributors were his "account shareholders." With this idea, Lu was able to pay a sum of money to his clients and save it for the company. Within one year, color TV sales had reached 1.6 million units, ranking the company sixth in China. Last December Lu boasted that Conrowa might be among the top three in three years.

Things were going well, but Huang started to distrust Lu. The board suspected that Lu was embezzling company and clients' capital for personal purposes. The board sent auditors to investigate Lu, an action Lu took as an insult. He rejected the investigation until he kicked off the board on April 7. Lu's associates in various areas were called in for an emergency meeting at headquarters in Jiangmen, Guangdong Province, at which they were required



Lu Qianghua

to swear that they had not been involved in any illegal actions.

The news caused consternation among providers and distributors. On May 11, one Shanghai picture tube manufacturer and two material providers united to sue Dongling Electronics to return 400 million in arrears. Then came the news that Huang had been arrested in Shanghai last month. Lu's idea "account shareholder" was called bankruptcy.

Besides Dongling, Lu has been a



Lu Qianghua's strategy is simple: to trigger a new price war. Conrowa's 29-inch model sells for only 1599 yuan. Photo by Photocom

senior manager of two home appliance companies. A graduate of Shanghai Finance and Economic University, in 1995 he was appointed vice general manager of Shanghai General Electronics Group, once the largest electronic company in China. In 1996, Lu moved to Skyworth, a small private home appliance manufacturer.

Within three years, Lu had steered Skyworth to being the fourth largest TV manufacturer. He built his own sales and marketing team and became the most powerful person in the company, after the owner.

Lu launched his own company, Renzhong Electronics, producing Toroyal

color television this month. He registered 15 million yuan and acquired a loss incurring television factory in Jiangxi Province. "My capability is fixed at the world of TV industry. I believe my management team's potentials and will try to break into the national top five within three years."

It seems Lu has not been deterred by his previous strikes, and says he will stick to his ideas on running the new company. "The idea is correct. The most important is you cannot break the capital chain. I think I have the ability to maintain the chain. Dongling would still be running if I was still in charge."

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CEO Resignation Shatters Confidence in B2Cs

By Zhao Yijiang

The board of Joyo.com, one of the biggest websites for audio and video products, announced last Friday that it had accepted CEO Wang Shutong's resignation. The only explanation given as to how the company's and Wang's goals had diverged was that her management style was "no longer in line with the board."

Joyo.com was founded by China's flagship software vendor Kingsoft and IT giant Legend in early 2000, when e-commerce companies were sprouting like mushrooms in China. Wang Shutong, one of the very few female executives among China's IT companies, was invited to be CEO.

Under her leadership, Joyo became the country's first "business-to-customers" (B2C) website to begin to break even last September, sixteen months after its launch. The strategy of "low price, large volume" brought tremendous success. For example, the company sold as many copies of the book *Garfield* in three months as the Xidan Book Center, Beijing's biggest bookstore, sold in five years.

Joyo had developed into China's leading online shopping company for popular goods like books and CDs by the time it celebrated its second birthday this May. According to Wang Shutong, the company has achieved the elusive goal of all e-commerce companies: to actually make money, and sales are continuing to grow. It has blazed a trail out of the downturn.

When Wang was asked the company's secret of suc-

Wang Shutong's Bio



- Born in Beijing in 1968.
- Graduated from the Beijing Electrical and Engineering Institute in 1991.
- Worked at a research center in Tsinghua University.
- Joined Microsoft's Beijing office in 1993 and promoted to manager of the Business Development Department three years later.
- Joined CISCO Systems as manager of the marketing and sales department in 1999, CISCO's only female senior manager in China at the time.
- Named CEO of Joyo, a joint venture of Kingsoft and Legend, in May 2000.
- Resigned from Joyo on August 14, 2002.

Photo by Photocom

AUTO INDUSTRY

By Jiang Zhong

Mazda Motor, Japan's fifth-largest automaker, will build its new mid-sized sedan, the Mazda 6 in Changchun, in northeast China.

Lewis Booth, newly appointed president of Mazda, said on a recent visit to China, "We are looking at further opportunities in China both in terms of vehicles and in terms of component sourcing."

"I know that Ford is doing just the same thing. We are looking together to see if there are any areas of mutual benefit in China," Booth said.

He claims that any new deal would have to respect Mazda's

and Ford's existing relationships with their Chinese partners, but declined to further comment on details.

Ford Motor, Mazda's partner and still a very small player in China, owns 33.3 percent of Mazda, but like other automakers, is eager to strengthen its presence in the world's most populous nation.

The lowering of tariffs and relaxing of restrictions on models sold that have come with China's entry into the World Trade Organization have lured Japan's car companies to plunge deeper into the market.

The *Chugoku Shimbun*, a regional Japanese newspaper covering the Hiroshima area

where the automaker is based, has reported that Mazda and Ford are considering a joint venture in China that would build at least 150,000 vehicles per year.

Mazda currently has an agreement with First Automobile Works (FAW) to build its Premacy and Familia models on the southern island of Hainan in 2003. Mazda supplies the kits and technical assistance and FAW Hainan Motor, wholly owned by the Chinese government, builds the vehicles.

The two are also setting up a Mazda distribution network. Mazda, however, only has a small stake in part of the venture, owning 17.5 per-



During the first month since its launch in May, 10,000 Mazda 6 have been ordered in Japan and 35,000 in Europe. Photo by Jiang Zhong

cent of Hainan Mazda Motor Stamping.

Booth said he would not rule out the possibility of Mazda taking a greater equity stake in a venture in China but said

it was too early to give a conclusive answer.

"We are a company with limited resources and we have a lot of priorities competing for those resources," he said.

Former Enron Executive Pleads Guilty



Michael Kopper

HOUSTON, Aug. 21 (AP) - The first former Enron Corp. executive to admit to crimes in the company's crash has acknowledged that he raked in millions in a corporate shell game and said his high-ranking boss was involved.

Entering guilty pleas to money laundering and conspiracy to commit wire fraud, Michael Kopper, 37, told US District Judge Ewing Werlein in an emotionless monotone voice Wednesday that he ran or helped create several partnerships that earned him and others millions of dollars while hiding debt and inflating profits at Enron.

He agreed to cooperate with investigators and to surrender \$12 million he gained illegally from Enron partnerships to the US Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The money "is going to go back to shareholders of Enron," said Leslie Caldwell, head of a nationwide task force of federal prosecutors probing the company's collapse.

Kopper also apologized to those hurt when Enron quickly spiraled into bankruptcy in late 2001, costing thousands of workers their jobs and retirement savings.

He could be sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined up to double the amount determined to have been fraudulently gained. But his testimony against others at Enron could earn him leniency. (Kristen Hays)

Asia's Central Banks Could Be Gold Buyers

SINGAPORE, Aug. 19 (Reuters) - Asia's reserve-rich central banks are potential buyers of gold to diversify their reserve assets, even as European central banks cut their holdings, a senior official of the World Gold Council said on Monday.

"Gold is back on the radar screens," Ralston Thiedeman, head of the council's Asia-Pacific official sector, told reporters at the start of a five-day seminar on reserves management, which the council is co-hosting.

"In the last six to 12 months, central banks in Asia have become far more receptive to talk about gold than they were say a couple of years back," he said.

Asia holds over half of the world's near \$2.0 trillion of foreign exchange reserves -- and it is mostly held in low-yield US dollar assets, with generally less than five percent in gold.

Gold prices have risen over 10 percent this year, although bullion has come off its \$330 an ounce high reached in June, which was its highest since October 1999.

Thiedeman said volatility in global financial markets, a weakening US dollar and low US interest rates were reasons for Asian central banks to diversify their portfolios.

Council statistics, which are based on the market price for gold, showed South Korea held just 0.1 percent of its reserves in gold, compared to over 55 percent in the United States and 35-40 percent in Europe. Pakistan and the Philippines hold around 15 percent of their reserves in gold.

Analysts' Take:

Mr. He Fan, researcher, Institute of World Economy and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS) China has modest gold reserves

China has foreign currency reserves of \$214.7 billion. Of that, 60-70 percent is in US dollars, 15-20 percent in Euros, five percent in Japanese Yen, and the rest in gold.

Morgan Stanley: US dollar to drop by 20 percent

Morgan Stanley forecasted earlier this year that the US dollar will fall in value by 20 percent over the next two to three years. This estimate was based on structural problem in the US economy, and the country's huge foreign trade deficit and lack of sustainable growth.

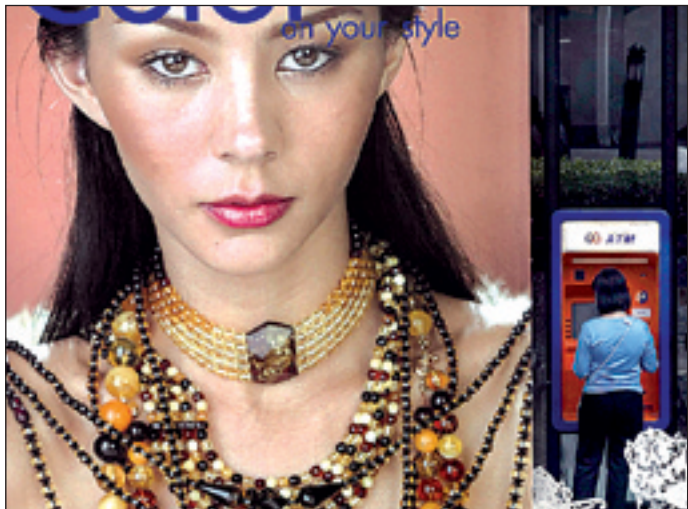
Fixed foreign currency system forcing Asian countries to purchase gold

Most countries in Asia, particularly in East and Southeast Asia, have fixed foreign currency systems that stick closely to US dollars. China is one such country. The fixed system requires huge foreign currency reserves to maintain confidence in the country's own currency and market.

The value of these massive foreign currency reserves needs to stay stable, if not increase. The devaluation of the US dollar, plus the lack of an available alternative world currency, forces these countries to purchase gold as fiscal safe hold.

Gold is not an ideal safe hold

However, gold is not a permanent safe hold. The world's limited gold resources keep it from being a useful tool to stimulate economic growth, and can lead to deflation in a country's, and even the world's, economy.



The economy of Thailand is recovering steadily and expected to reach an annual increase of 4.5 percent this year. In general, the Southeast Asian countries are seeing the long awaited economic prosperity this year, compared to the overall economic slowdown around the world.

Against a background of a huge billboard, a young Thai woman draws cash from an ATM machine in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on August 22. (Xinhua Photo)

IBM Discloses 15,000 Layoffs

While layoff announcements at IBM have been sporadic, the company reported to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that it has pink-slipped more than 15,000 employees, fully five percent of its workforce.

Global Services Hit

In a regular quarterly report to the commission, IBM said, "The majority of the workforce reductions relate to the company's Global Services business." Of the 14,213 people let go in that division, 57 percent had left by the end of June.

"The remaining people were notified by June 30th, and the majority will leave the company by September 30th," the company noted.

Another 1,400 people were axed from IBM's semiconductor business. Three percent of those employees left in June, and most of the rest are expected to depart by the end of August.

The company had said earlier this year that it planned to lay off a portion of its workforce and had already made cuts in several divisions.

IBM Not Alone

IBM is not alone in reducing its workforce. In the current economic climate, it would be difficult to find a large company, other than Microsoft, that is unfamiliar with the pink slip.

According to outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas, the number of dot-com layoffs has fluctuated from month

to month this year, and large companies like Commerce One have announced substantial workforce reductions.

In addition, established giants Hewlett-Packard and Compaq have said layoffs will follow their mega-merger.

(Teri Robinson)

From EcommerceTimes.com, Aug. 14

Analysts' Take:

Shao Wanhong, senior analyst, Computer Business Information (CBI)

The condition of the global economy is one of the two fundamental factors behind the downward turn of the PC industry. The other is the PC market itself. Group consumption is a major force in the market, aside from private purchases. With the introduction of new types of PCs and huge group purchases in the past several years, market demand has bottomed out this year.

Nearly all of my old acquaintances at IBM China are now gone. The former senior management of HP and Compaq China have almost all been replaced since their companies' merger. More evidence of the downturn in the industry is the disappearance of ads for PCs on TV, in newspapers and on billboards. The IT media industry, in which I work, is also facing heavy lay-offs.

Domestic PC producers have also been facing difficulties since last year. A bubble

formed in the IT industry, with production capacity far exceeding actual demand. Legend has a total annual production capacity of 7-8 million units, while the group sold only 2.8 million PCs last year, far below its target of four million.

Founder Group of Beijing University produced three million sets last year and sold only 1.5 million, and Tsinghua Unsplendour Group has also experienced losses in its PC section.

I cannot say for sure whether jobs cuts have gone on within these domestic PC producers. But you can see that Legend has cut www.fm365, its portal business. The three major domestic producers are diversifying their product ranges covering products like digital cameras, software products, medical instruments and mobile telecommunications devices.

Gu Xiaomao, public relations officer, HP-Compaq China

We had a round of lay-offs in China earlier this year. I want to emphasize that the job cuts were necessary for our merger with Compaq and aimed at reducing operating expenses. The weakness of the global PC market was definitely another factor. But China's market is always different from the global market and often going in a different direction in the cycle of economic ups and downs.

Whether or not we'll have another round of job cuts will depend on our business operation.



1:1

For the whole week, the US dollar has been pacing up and down against the Euro in a critical exchange range close to 1:1 in the North American and European currency markets. The International Monetary Fund considered in its evaluation report conducted last month that the economy of the Euro block is on the right track, though lacks "enough" striking strength. The organization believes the Euro block's economic increase will be slower than expected.

In mid-July, the Euro actually surpassed the dollar in value for a few days before falling again. (Xinhua Photo)

Chinese Company Fined for Pirating

BEIJING, Aug. 15 (AP) - A Chinese motorcycle maker has been fined about \$110,000 for pirating trademarks belonging to Japan's Yamaha conglomerate, a lawyer for Yamaha said on Thursday.

The ruling earlier this month also requires the Tianjin Gangtian Group to apologize to Yamaha and remove the trademark name from their products, said Wang Yadong of the Junhe law firm.

"We were satisfied with the ruling but felt that the amount of the fine was too low," Wang said.

He said the Gangtian Group had until Aug. 21 to decide whether to appeal.

Officials of the Tianjin People's High Court, which tried the case, referred questions about the case to Wang.

Fake products and trademark violations are rife in China, although the country has pledged to crack down on offenders following its entry into the World Trade Organization late last year.

Yamaha Case Reflects China's Stance Against IPR Infringement

Aug. 16, 2002 (The Washington Times)- The result of the Yamaha case reflects Beijing's determination to crack down on pirating criminals in the country that seriously damage the reputation of the government and fill the domestic market

with massive amounts of low-quality fake products.

The sentence is one of the highest of any pirating cases in the history of China.

Analysts' Take:

Employee of Tianjin Gangtian Group, who requested anonymity

As far as we know, this case has ended. The spokesman for the group is now in Taiwan discussing possible cooperation with Taiwan San Yang Industry to manufacture motorcycles. We are trying to move forward.

We also apologize to the media for not cooperating by giving a clear explanation of the case. Our group is very large and we lack experience in handling situations like this. But we are moving forward.

Yamaha Motorcycle Beijing Office

We are waiting to see whether or not Tianjin Gangtian will appeal the case to higher court. If they accept this judgment, we expect the next step to be the implementation of the orders, including the fines.

Yamaha is pursuing several other cases against fake Yamaha products and intellectual property rights infringement in China.

Du Fangci, deputy secretary general, China Auto Industrial Association

Chinese enterprises have to form alli-

ances in such fields as marketing, services, and technological innovation. In the long term, technological development is the most important point. Without an alliance in technological innovation, no domestic enterprise will be able to make the research and development investment needed to be competitive. That would put the industry in a permanently passive position facing the rapidly changing global market.

Zhang Zheng, professor, Guanghua School of Management, Beijing University

Enterprises have to obtain their own patents and copyrights and their own core technologies if they want to establish permanent positions in the market and have competitive advantages.

Due to the huge investment and time required for research and development, it is necessary to introduce advanced technologies and "borrow" the patents of others. However, that must be done in a legal way. We have to be careful about the weapon of intellectual property rights used by foreign competitors.

Representative of Japan External Trade Organization's Beijing Office

The judgment is a milestone in halting pirating in China.

Subway Suicide Attempts Spark Demand for Legal Action

By Su Wei

A man jumped onto the track before an approaching train at Chongwenmen subway station at around 4 pm last Wednesday, according to local media reports. One of three local women who witnessed the suicide attempt recalled, "It happened so suddenly. We had no idea he was going to do that. We all fainted."

The train conductor hit the brakes immediately, saving the man's life, though his toes were run over and broken.

Five minutes later, a policeman arrived and jumped down to help the man. The station returned to normal operations in twenty minutes.

Reports by Beijing media show this man is just one of several jumpers to hit Beijing subway stations in recent years. Other incidents include:

- A Beijing woman died on the tracks at the Chegongzhuang subway station in January. Traffic stopped for 40 minutes. The media later reported she was suffering from postnatal depression.

- Zhang Shunfeng from Shunyi District laid down on the tracks at the Fuxingmen subway station at 2 pm on April 18, and was pulled to safety before the train arrived. Traffic ground to a halt for seven minutes. Zhang later admitted she was trying to commit suicide.

- A middle-aged Beijing woman also tried to do herself in at that station at 7:25 am on June 10, ending up with a broken right hand and a head wound. Traffic stopped for half an hour.

- A middle-aged Beijing man jumped in front of an approaching train at the Changchunjie subway station at around 4 pm on August 8, and was later

saved after over 40 minutes of emergency treatment at a local hospital.

Zhan Minghui, general head of dispatchers for the Underground Railway Operation Group, said, "Although most of these people have been saved, each time a person jumps, traffic has to be stopped. The period between each two trains should be only five minutes. The costs of a delay is around 750 yuan per second.

"Everyday, over 1.3 million people ride the subway. When trains are delayed, passengers rush to ticket offices to get compensation. Plus, some passengers may be injured in these incidents and some passengers' property can be damaged. We have to cover all those losses."

Li Yuezhong, vice president of the group, is calling on the municipal People's Congress to enact a "subway

law" in order to "put the responsibility on jumpers in these incidents and protect passengers' rights." Li said, "People that purposely jump onto subway tracks not only violate social morals but also disrupt social order."

Li said it is currently not practical to install curtain walls at stations. Though he said it is not currently practical to install safety walls at stations, Li admitted they would be effective in preventing these incidents. "If we did so, we would have to reequip all stations, the signal system and trains. The subway's operations would have to be completely stopped."

Zhu Gongwei, a lawyer from the Zhongzhao Law Office, said there is a gap in legislation regarding subway jumpers. "People that disturb social order at public transportation sites are only detained for up to 15 days and made to pay fines according to the Public Management Regulation," he added.

Jealous Boyfriend Crashes Risqué Pipe Promotion

By Su Wei

"You, come down here," shouted a young man at a model taking her clothes off on a catwalk at Qianbaigian Shopping Plaza at Henderson Center last Friday afternoon.

An on-looker, Mr. Zhao, who did not disclose his full name, told *Beijing Youth Daily* that the performance was held to promote the pipe products by Qingdao Paibiao Pipe Company.

"The two models were peeling off their clothes, which were covered in Chinese characters with the names of pipes, piece by piece until they reached a swimsuit, when a young man charged onto the stage and tried to pull one model away with him.

"He said he is the boyfriend of that model," Zhao recalled. "He also said he would never have

known what his girlfriend was doing had he not arrived before expected." The young man claimed the model asked him to take her home."

A sales representative of the company stepped in and tried to keep the young man from pulling the model off stage, yelling, "Calm down! Calm down!"

Zhao said a quarrel then erupted, and things got messy.

The host of the performance, an actor made up as a baogong, or male character from Peking Opera that represents a just, good man, told reporters from *Star Daily*, "Family quarrels are hard to settle even for an upright official. Let them solve their own troubles."

The crowd burst into laughter in the ensuing chaos.



A magical moment in pipe show history Photo by Zhao Xuncheng

Impostor UN Employee Busted

By Chen Ying

Thanks to the exploits of a clever con-man, city residents may think twice about believing anyone who claims to be an official of the United Nations (UN).

Fan Chuansheng, 58, from Lianoning Province, has cheated people in Beijing out of nearly 118,000 over the past five years by claiming to be a UN official.

On August 12, the Fangshan District People's Court sentenced Fan to eight years in prison with an accompanying fine of 50,000 yuan.

His accomplice, Chen Jinchuan, who produced the falsified certificates needed for the crimes, is still wanted by police.

While he ran his scams from 1997 to March 2002, Fan changed his claimed position constantly, from an employee at the

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

His con was based on persuading victims to give him money in the name of the UN with the promise of high returns, or to make supposed charitable contributions.

From 1997 to early 2000, Fan used his claimed position as an agent with the UNSC to cheat two residents of Mentougou District of 33,000 yuan, under the premise that he was raising funds for that organization.

In mid-March this year, Fan upped the stakes, upgrading his false status to being an official with UNICEF. With Chen's help, he managed to cheat 60,800 yuan from three people living in Fangshan District.



West China Wind Blows through Capital's Gold Street

A week-long sculpture exhibition of artworks inspired by life in western China opened on August 18 will give the Wangfujing pedestrian street an optimistic vibe until the 25th of this month. The over 100 works depict such subjects as a beautiful Tibetan girl, farming tools, local families and an egg-shaped representation of the yin-yang principle.

(Ivy Zhang)

Photo by Chen Ying

Residents Run Roadblock to Safeguard Community

By Lily Li

A stretch of paved street close to the Qingnian Hu Xili residential area, formerly a busy road, has become much quieter since residents set up a roadblock to prevent cars' passage.

A sign reading "Traffic is strictly prohibited" in bright red characters round 50 meters from the entrance makes it. Besides, a concrete stake painted with red and white lines stands in the middle of the intersection, tapering the street to the point that only tricycles can pass on either side.

According to Mr. Wang, an employee in a nearby office

building who only gave his surname, the road used to accommodate two cars side by side and was often jammed during rush hour. The road had become a popular cut-through for commuters, many of whom are now grumbling about the inconvenience of the community's actions.

Area residents have their own thoughts on the matter. Li Jie (pseudonym), who lives in the No. 4 building in Qingnian Hu Xili, said since the road became heavily trafficked, the passing cars had become a real nuisance to residents. "We can understand drivers' wanting to

take short cuts, but they should also take our feelings into account. This road has made it dangerous to leave our homes," said Li.

The community's Residential Committee reported the situation to the Traffic Detachment of Dongcheng District in April. An investigation was made, but the problem was never solved.

"For roads that belong to a residential area, problems should be solved by their Residential Committees.

"If this is a public road, the residents' actions are out-of-line and should be dealt with by the City Management Team and our department," said Yang Guoping, an employee at the News Center of the Beijing Traffic Department.

However, Miss Zhao from the Dongcheng City management team, who only gave her surname, said, "This is beyond the reach of our abilities, because we only have the power to deal with illegal roadblocks run by businesses."

After three months of squabbling, the Dongcheng Traffic Detachment has taken up the case.

According to department leader Yang Yi, "We previously removed two stakes from the intersection, but every

time we removed one they put up another."



The concrete post at the center of the traffic dispute

Photo by Song Xiaolin

Escape Artist Extracts Himself from Web Chat

By Ivy Zhang

Robert Gallup, the American creator of his own brand of high risk illusion and escape acts, called Gallup Extreme Magic, pulled off a different kind of disappearing trick last Friday night in the midst of a web chat program conducted in the Ynet.com studio of *Beijing Youth Daily*.

The hour-long online program started at 8 pm. Thousands of Chinese web surfers posed questions to this young, handsome and talented magician.

Questions raised addressed nearly every aspect of Gallup's life.

How do you pull off your escapes?

It's all a matter of technique, timing and little luck. It took me about 20 years to learn my skills from a locksmith.

Are you suicidal?

Absolutely not. My performances are not about death or suicide, they're about life and success. I want to create personal and professional challenges and push my profession and art form.

If you were arrested, how

would you want the police to take you in?

In handcuffs. They're easy to get out of.

If you were put in jail, could you escape?

Yes.

What does it take to do these extreme acts?

You have to be crazy, dedicated and focused.

Are you married?

No.

Do you want to get married?

Yes, if I live that long.

Would you want your kids to follow in your footsteps?

No. One crazy person is enough for one family.

What kind of woman do you like?

Pretty, gentle-hearted and with a fun personality.

What does your family think about what you do?

They think I should give it up and get a real job.

What are your hobbies?

Skydiving, rock-climbing, scuba-diving and kung-fu.

...

He said he began to play with magic at the age of five and has enjoyed extreme sports since he was a teenager.



Robert Gallup

Photo by Cui Jun

About ten years ago, he starred in magic shows in Las Vegas twice a night, six nights a week.

Despite the shows' success, he found them boring and repetitive. Gallup then decided to add life to his performances by combining stage magic with off-stage extreme sports to create "extreme performances" - an idea partly inspired by the legendary Harry Houdini.

Gallup said he trains physically, mentally and spiritually everyday to push his abilities and art form to a new level.

About 15 years ago, he became fascinated by the Chinese philosophy of yin (female) and yang (male). "I try to live a balanced life, both physically and mentally, and keep in harmony," he said.

After half an hour, questions kept rolling in, but Gallup said he had to go because he "had an interview with CCTV at nine o'clock."

"But I can use my cell phone to answer the rest of the questions," Gallup said, pointing to his picture posted on the web. "See, they'll think I'm still on site. It's

like magic."

Gallup was excited with the idea and anxious to address the following questions. "Next question?" "Next question?" he kept asking, pressing his black cell phone his against ear, talking while walking towards the doorway.

"Do you think you are handsome?"

"No," said Gallup with laughed as he walked out, "My face is a sign of my mother's love..."

He said he was overjoyed by the warmth he shared with about 200 Chinese children at an extreme performance he gave at the Great Wall last Thursday night to raise money for the China Children's Foundation.

"I performed slight-of-hand tricks for them as I hung by my ankles 45 meters above their heads. They yelled out my name and wished me good luck. I felt very happy," Gallup said through his phone.

Proving his mastery of the art of escape, Gallup disappeared, but the interview continued.

(See page 12)

What's the Point of Getting an Education, Anyway?

Hunan teacher fired for philosophy of education for self-improvement

By Chen Ying

Yin Jianting never expected to be where he is now, barely employed far from his home, but that has not stopped him from standing up for his rights following a ban on his person and educational philosophy.

On August 8, Yin Jianting, 49, a former Chinese teacher at Zhuzhou No.2 High School in Hunan Province, won a lawsuit against the Zhuzhou Municipal Education Commission, which issued a document on August 31 of last year requiring all schools in Zhuzhou to refuse to employ him. This March, he found a new job at an education center for students preparing for the national university entrance examinations in Guangzhou, where he has taught just one lesson and generally does odd jobs.

The Zhuzhou Intermediate People's Court determined that the commission's requirement was illegal and Yin has the right to employment as a teacher because he holds proper certification.

If not for media reports of his plans for a lesson about the goals of education in April 2001, Yin might still be a teacher at his former school. Before it all went wrong, he was considered an outstanding teacher, winning the national excellent Chinese teacher award for 1993 from the China Education Commission and being named a senior teacher and the model Chinese teacher of Zhuzhou in 1996.

The original words in Yin's teaching plan are as follows: Why do you study? Why do people go to college? Generally speaking, what are your goals? Maybe you will say to realize communism, to serve the construction of a socialist society. But I will tell you that without a doubt, studying and going to college are for one's self, not for others. Studying enhances your abilities, improves your potential, and makes it easier for you to find a good job in the future and earn money. Then you can have a good, happy life, a successful career, and even marry a beautiful woman

or handsome man and have a clever child.

The teaching plan, written in 1993, was an annual part of Yin's lessons. The principal of the school found it while inspecting teachers' preparations for the 2000 school year. The school recommended his plan, titled "A First Lesson" for the 2000 Zhuzhou high school Chinese teachers' teaching and research essay award overseen by the municipal education office. The lesson was given a second-tier prize.

The award made the plan open to the media, which immediately pounced on the words "money" and "beautiful wife". Reports about Yin were sensationalized and forced the local education department to take action.

The department negated his award on May 11, 2001, on the grounds that Yin violated item 37 of the Education Law, Zhuzhou No.2 High School dismissed Yin under the requirement of Zhuzhou Municipal Education Commission, which had received approval for the action from the Hunan Education Office on August 28.

The Commission distributed a document on August 31 saying it agreed with the school's decision and asking all the city's schools not to employ Yin.

Yin filed an appeal with the Zhuzhou Intermediate People's Court in January, demanding the committee withdraw its decision. The court accepted the case May 15.

Many people have been questioning the goals of education, even before Yin's opinions were published in the media. Opinions on that question, and Yin's treatment, follow:

Yin Jianting

I'm a senior Chinese teacher. The point of my lesson was to emphasize that studying is for one's self. I referred to money and beautiful women just as examples to back my argument. But the media mangled my ideas. If the goals of studying can be classified into high, middle and low categories, then obviously, my opinion qualifies



Yin Jianting

as a low one. My questions are meant to be academic probes into educational ideas and methods.

Yin's son, junior, Xi'an Jiaotong University

I grew up under my father's instruction. I think his ideas are right. Some reports have intentionally garbled his meaning. As far as I know, reporters from *China Youth Daily* never interviewed my father, though they wrote many articles about him. The media's descriptions of my father's ideas make it seem like what he meant by individual pursuits conflicts with national benefits. But my father never

meant that. Today's teenagers are more pragmatic. Students like to listen to the truth instead of hollow words.

As individuals, students are concerned about their personal development. Is that wrong? It's better if teachers can connect individual growth to group or national development when they try to instruct students on morality.

Zhang Hongyu, recent college graduate

I didn't have time to think carefully about my future when I was in high school because of the heavy burden of homework. During my study career,

my teachers just taught us about the good aspects of society, but I found things were totally different when I entered the real world. Students need help to forge good personal philosophies and get them ready to optimistically face the rest of their lives.

Yin's opinion may be realistic in today's world, but to some extent, it is extreme. Most other teachers still teach based on traditional ideas.

I think what Yin told his students is improper. They can learn about the negative aspects of society once they are out on their own.

Some people may think studying for one's self is selfish. But if you cultivate yourself well, you can find your own value and really make contributions to society.

Zhou Xiaozheng, professor, Sociology Department, Remin University of China

It's inevitable for people's ideologies and consciousness to change in keeping with social development. Such changes are not restricted to the minds of youth. For instance, the driving ideal for people in the 1950s was to make efforts to create a new China. Today, in the era of the market economy, people's ideals have become more pragmatic. But it's absolutely wrong to only care about money, let alone to make it an ideal.

Austrian, who requested anonymity

My goal in education is to learn useful stuff and expand my mind. I study for myself, to improve myself. Studying is a kind of process of self-achievement. It's a way to get what you need and to find yourself. You've got to learn to develop yourself and to get status to become something. If you don't learn, you can't move up.

As to the teacher's comments, I think they're really more like goals, so they are not too bad. Every man dreams of marrying a beautiful woman, after all.

SOUND BITES

"It's a pity when people fail to enroll at prestigious universities, but they can also excel at private universities and colleges."

— Ning Min, one of ten star graduates from private universities and colleges in Beijing for 2002

"It is possible that, in terms of imports, China will surpass the United States in the very near future, perhaps as early as the second half of this year."

— Masaki Yabuuchi, director of the Japan External Trade Organization's China division

"We are very worried about the limited donations we have received to date. We're getting closer and closer to a critical moment. The farther away we get from the harvest, the worse the situation becomes."

— Brenda Barton, spokeswoman for the World Food Programme, regarding insufficient efforts from the international community to provide assistance to counter the food crisis in southern Africa

"Abu Nidal [a Palestinian terrorist connected to multiple attacks in the 1970s and 1980s] is a craven and despicable terrorist, and the world would certainly be a better place without people like him."

— US State Department spokesman Philip Reeker regarding reports from Palestinian officials that Abu Nidal was found shot to death in his apartment in Iraq on Monday

"Tobacco advertising promotes a deadly habit. The brands most heavily advertised are those most heavily smoked by children."

— Hazel Blears, UK public health minister, regarding a possible ban on tobacco ads in Britain by the end of the year

By Chen Ying

Readers Questionnaire

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Sexual Bribes, a Slippery Issue

Survey reveals public opinion favours adding a new clause to the law

By Su Wei
Awareness

All the surveyed people agree that sexual bribes are dangerous.

Most of the surveyed say they can easily list senior government officials whose involvement in sexual bribes has been exposed by the media.

Hu Changqing, the former vice governor of Jiangxi province, ranks first in peoples' minds, followed by Wang Baosen, the former vice mayor of Beijing, Yang Qianxian, the former governor of Xiamen Customs, Cao Xukang, the former governor of Zhanjiang Customs, and Wang Dewei, the former vice chief procurator of the People's Procuratorate of Haikou.

Responsibility

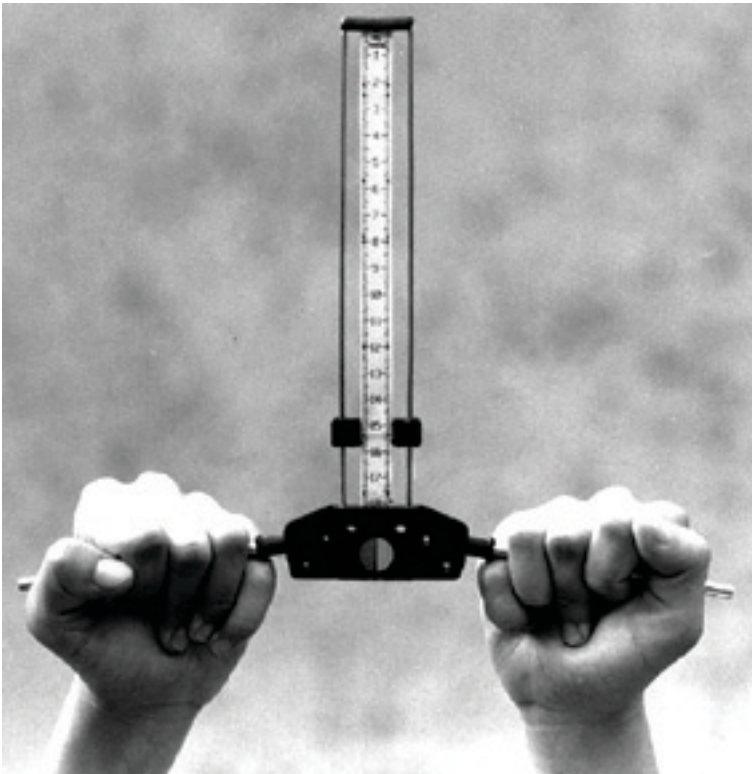
The declining sense of responsibility of officials is regarded as the No.1 reason for the wide range of sexual bribes. "Especially when they are manipulated by someone else," an idea shared by all the surveyed.

Sun Guoxiang, vice president of the Law Institute of Nanjing University says it is understandable that people may have strong and urgent demand for sex when their living standards have improved.

"Like a Chinese saying — appetite for food and sex is natural," says Sun. "These officials tend to think they are pursuing true love, not just visiting prostitutes. "Under the cover of 'making love not having sex', sexual bribes spread and result in more officials becoming licentious."

Gao Mingxuan, professor of the Law Institute of Renmin University says sexual bribes are a modern version of the 'beauty trap' in which a beautiful woman would be used to distract the attentions of an adversary.

"But the main reasons for the



use of sexual bribes is that supervision is weak in our current systems and some power holders have lost their sense of moral responsibility."

Gao says that many officials do not dare to take sexual bribes until achieving a higher position. "They believe they will lose everything unless they take the opportunity at the right time."

Gao Feng, vice director of the Commercial and Industrial Bureau of Yingshang County, Anhui, was once considered the best cadre in the county but was dismissed by the Party for visiting prostitutes.

"I just felt empty in my body. My wife lost her beauty and charm. I just could not help thinking of a young beautiful woman accompanying me," said Gao in his letter to the Party.

Wu Yanping, researcher of the Crimes Prevention Research Institute of the Ministry of Justice says some of the officials do not consider it wrong to use prostitutes. He says, "They believe they have the right to capitalize on their power in expressing their physical demand."

Sexual liberation

Changing ideas towards sex and sexual freedom is considered

by the surveyed as the second main factor in the spread of sexual bribes.

Wu Yanping is aware that people have become far more open about sex, in terms of being more tolerant towards extramarital affairs, feeling less embarrassment in talking about sex in public, and treating the need for sex as nothing unusual or unreasonable.

"People do not feel as embarrassed about being involved in affairs as they would have done in the 1950s. Having a mistress has become accepted, and is becoming a mark of a man's social status."

"Sexual bribes are a form of sexual or emotional investment," says Zhang Zuofu, Gao's colleague.

"But more and more corruption revolves around sex. People, especially those in power, fail to identify the difference between having sex with a lover and taking advantage of their position.

"The former belongs to privacy and should be protected by law, though morally it should be adjusted. The latter takes advantage of public rights and violates the normal social order."

Evidence

Although nearly 85 percent of surveyed people say sexual bribes should be recognized as a crime, they all maintain it would be too difficult to do this.

One reason is that evidence of taking sexual bribes is hard to gather. According to Bai Jianjun, professor of Beijing University, the judicial system emphasizes solid evidence, including witness testimony and physical evidence.

"In the case of bribes involving money or other items, the evidence can be obtained through investigation and witness testimony. The measurement of penalty would not be affected even when the client

denies his guilt," says Bai.

"Sexual bribes are less obvious to everyone except the clients. The evidence obtained is merely the accusation and the suspect's response. Little other evidence is available.

"Some people could potentially use sexual bribes to make false charges against some officials, who would then suffer being maliciously accused and would find it hard to provide any evidence to prove their innocence."

Moral issues

Less than 9 percent surveyed said sexual bribes should not be treated as a crime and that it was simply a moral issue.

Jia Yu, professor of Northern West University of Political Science and Law, says a small number of people treat the issue more quietly.

He says, "sex is a right for everyone and is born of nature. It is different from property. It has not the transferability.

"Sexual bribes, though regarded as trading between power and sex, are actually a kind of relation between men and women. This is an issue of morality and cannot be seen as a legal issue."

Liu Wenrong, a lawyer at Beijing Mingren Lawyer's Office, says now is not the time to add sexual bribes to the law.

"The current task is still to crack down on bribes involving taking money and other properties. Can we use the limited judicial forces to discipline sexual bribes when we are still failing to clear up property bribes?"

"It is a waste of time and energy. It is the same as putting the cart before the horse." He suggests that people should not believe that criminal laws are 100 percent reliable and effective.

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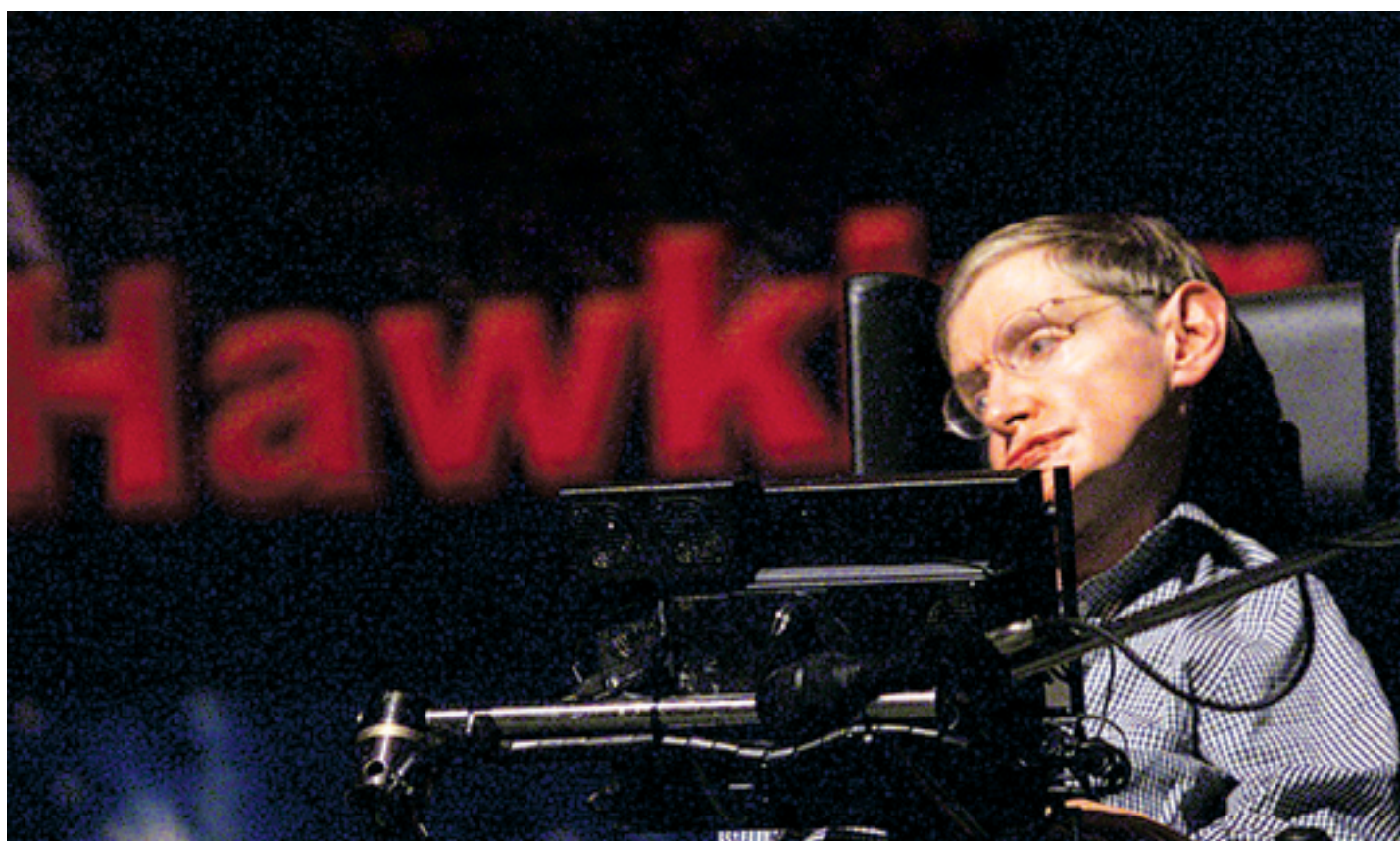


Photo by Chen Bai

A Brief History of Time, the Universe and Everything

By Ivy Zhang / Zeng Wei / Yan Jianli

Stephen Hawking, the world's best known cosmologist, left Beijing yesterday, wrapping up a weeklong visit to China.

During his stay, he participated in the International Conference on String Theory, visited the Forbidden City and climbed the Great Wall.

M is for Mysterious

"Can you hear me?" asked the metallic, computer-generated voice, as Professor Stephen Hawking began his one-hour lecture at the String Theory Conference hosted by the Physics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Saturday.

Hawking, the author of the best selling *A Brief History of Time*, suffers from motor neuron disease. He is confined to a wheelchair and uses a voice synthesizer to speak.

After listening attentively from the last row of the auditorium to the first two speakers, David Gross and Edward Witten, Hawking made his way to the stage, a journey that took him 10 minutes to negotiate in his electric wheelchair.

"Do not take flash photos, please!" the host repeated to the phalanx of enthusiastic reporters waiting to photograph the celebrity mathematician.

String theory is an enormously complex area of physics that seeks to bring together quantum theory and general relativity in an attempt to reveal the origin and fate of the universe. Hawking's lecture on M theory, where "M" stands for "mystery," "Matrix," "membrane," or the "mother of all strings," lasted about one hour.

Unlike the previous presentations, Hawking incorporated animated cartoons to illustrate his ideas. But the cartoons fell a little flat. "No one laughed," he typed out after the lecture ended.

Professor Andrew Strominger of Harvard University said afterwards, "The speech is vaery interesting and he brought up an important point that the string theory is too confident that you will never understand everything you think there."

Such lectures usually take Hawking around 60 hours to prepare, according to his assistant Neel Shearer. "Professor Hawking is out of London for three months every year, traveling around to give lectures or attend seminars," Shearer said, "he receives medical treatment throughout the day."

Old friends talk shop

Strominger said he was happy with the three-hour talk he had with Hawking on De Sitter space on Saturday afternoon. De Sitter space, named after mathematician Willem de Sitter, refers to a certain kind of space-time.

At three o'clock, the scientists and mathematicians stepped out of the conference room for a coffee break, chatting while picking up snacks, coffee and tea from the table in the corridor.

Hawking, in his wheelchair near the table was surrounded by dozens of reporters and enthusiasts.

"Turn me," Hawking typed into his computer. Shearer turned the wheelchair around, explaining to the reporters, "Prof. Hawking does not want to talk to reporters. He came here to attend the conference and wants to talk to scientists."

Minutes later, Strominger in a green T-shirt approached and took a seat beside Hawking. "Hi, Stephen!"

Hawking's computer indicated "talking" status. The conversation turned to De Sitter space, the subject of the lecture given by Strominger at the conference. Despite Hawking's dis-

ability, the communication between the two ran smoothly.

After their discussion, Strominger told *Beijing Today*, "Mr. Hawking and I have been interested in understanding De Sitter's property because it's mysterious. We don't have any definite answers. It relates to the work he has done. He wants to discuss it more."

De Sitter space is a special space time in which all the points expand away from each other very rapidly. Some theories predict that in the distant future, the distant space that we live in will become De Sitter space.

Strominger has known Hawking for 20 years and the two have worked together on a paper.



Hawking talks with Professor Andrew Strominger of Harvard University, a friend of 20 years.

Photo by Zeng Wei



Ticket holders queue outside the Internrtional Convention Center to attend Hawking's lecture.

Photo by Chen Bai

He started with the position of an object in a three-dimensional room, then moved on to the addition of time, which constitutes four dimension, from where he elaborated on the four-dimensional surface, or "brane," in a higher dimensional mixture of space and time.

His lecture was full of wry remarks and humorous asides. When he came to "hologram creation", his theory that the entire universe may actually be a hologram, an overhead monitor set showed an excerpt from a *Star Trek* episode, in which holograms of Hawking, Newton and Einstein play a game of poker.

When Hawking won a hand, the audience laughed and clapped their hands.

The lecture lasted for about one and a half hours, and when it ended, the audience stood and again showed their respect and admiration for the scientist. His wife, Elaine delivered a short message. "It's our great pleasure my husband and I came to visit China. We are glad to see so many of you have come to the auditorium ... Thank you."

Though the lecture was clearly a success, some students shook their heads and said they had not fully understood it.

"I think it's very complicated. I can understand maybe 50 percent, just the surface," said Chad Rickner from the US, a biological sciences major.

"The idea is very exciting and interesting. I think it's something I can accept but I don't fully understand it. For instance, he explains maybe the reason gravity does not escape the earth as much as light, is because there is a shadow "brane" it bounces off. That's one new idea I found very interesting. I think that's a good explanation."

Beautiful Mind, Formidable Intellect

By Ivy Zhang

John F. Nash Jr., mathematical genius, Nobel laureate, and subject of the film *A Beautiful Mind*, was on a tight schedule during his Beijing visit.

He flew from Qingdao to Beijing Monday, attended the opening ceremony of the International Conference of Mathematicians Tuesday and delivered a public lecture titled *Studying Cooperation in Games* via Agencies, at the International Convention Center Wednesday night to an audience of about 2,000.

During the one-hour lecture, Nash reviewed his work in game theory, a method used all over the world today by economists, businesses and governments to study multiple-person non-cooperative interactions by studying two-person cooperative games.

Five minutes before he finished his lecture, the big screen went blank, then the words "color adjusting. Please wait." appeared.

Nash flipped the lamp of the projector up and down and asked for someone to come and repair it. But minutes after a technician went onto the stage to set the machine right, Nash wound up his presentation.

"Maybe I should stop to allow for some questions," he said.

A young woman in the front row stood up and asked about the nature of the "agency" in the game model.

If Nash's reply was difficult to follow, the woman's follow up question was even more so. The mathematician had to ask her to repeat the question, as he did not understand



John Nash delivers a public lecture to an audience of 2,000, titled *Studying Cooperation in Games* via Agencies.

what she meant, causing a ripple of laughter through the audience.

He only had time to take a few questions before being hustled off for a TV interview. Enthusiasts crowded around him as he departed, hoping to have their copies of the Nash biography *A Beautiful Mind*, autographed, but they were blocked by a dozen security guards who surrounded the genius with linked arms.

Outside the auditorium, more than 100 copies of the Chinese version of *A Beautiful Mind* were sold. Many of those who attended the lecture said they had come because of Nash's fame and his turbulent life.

However, an American mathematics professor doubted that many of those attending really understood the lecture.

"I can't follow the whole talk very well. I talked to mathematicians sitting with me, they also had a hard time following. It's very deep, very specialized. I think in the whole audience, only 10 percent understood," said Professor Joseph E. Yukich from Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, a researcher in probability theory.

But Yukich added that Nash had also inspired a lot of people, because he went through a lot of trouble and misery to get to where he is now. "That is inspiring. The fact that he came to China is a success," he said.

As Nash's talk was not advertised in the conference's program, many of the mathematicians did not know he was coming. "It's a surprise. It's a bonus," Yukich said.

John Nash Profile:

For many years, students and scholars in Princeton have seen a ghostly, silent figure shuffling around the corridors of the math and physics building wearing purple sneakers and occasionally writing numerology treatises on the blackboards. They called him the "Phantom of Fine Hall".

The Phantom was John Nash, one of the most brilliant mathematicians of his generation, who had spiraled into schizophrenia in the 1950s.

Nash was a mathematical genius whose 27-page dissertation, "Non-Cooperative Games," written in 1950 when he was 21, would be honored with the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1994.

His most important work had been in game theory, which by the 1980s was underpinning a large part of economics. When the Nobel Prize committee began debating a prize for game theory, Nash's name inevitably came up — only to be dismissed, since the prize clearly could not go to a madman. But in 1994 Nash, in remission from schizophrenia, shared the Nobel Prize in economics for work done some 45 years previously.

When the young Nash had applied to graduate school at Princeton in 1948, his old Carnegie Tech professor, R.J. Duffin, wrote only one line on his letter of recommendation: "This man is a genius".

His contributions to mathematics were no less remarkable. As an undergraduate, he had inadvertently proved Brouwer's fixed point the-

orem. Later on, he went on to break one of Riemann's most perplexing mathematical conundrums.

In 1958, Nash was struck by paranoid schizophrenia. He lost his job at M.I.T. in 1959 and was virtually incapacitated by the disease for the next two decades or so.

The disease began to evaporate in the early 1970s and Nash began to gradually return to his work in mathematics.

Game theory emanates from studies of games such as chess or poker. Everyone knows that in these games, players have to think ahead — devise a strategy based on expected countermeasures from the other player(s). Such strategic interaction also characterizes many economic situations, and game theory has therefore proved to be very useful in economic analysis.

Today, 50 years later, game theory has become a dominant tool for analyzing economic issues. The principal aspect of this theory is the concept of equilibrium, which is used to make predictions about the outcome of strategic interaction.

John F. Nash introduced the distinction between cooperative games, in which binding agreements can be made, and non-cooperative games, where binding agreements are not feasible. Nash developed an equilibrium concept for non-cooperative games that later came to be called Nash equilibrium.

(Excerpts from www.popular-science.net)



Nash and his wife Alicia arrive in Beijing Monday to attend the International Conference of Mathematicians.

Photos by Chen Bai

Wanderlust Leads to Professional, Personal Growth



Liu Lei rafting the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet, 1998

"While others travel to enjoy scenery, culture and folklore or simply to relax, I go to check out architecture," says Liu Lei, a young architect who has travelled to all corners of the country seeking the spirit of traditional Chinese architecture.



Liu's sketch of the Norbu Lingka Palace, the Dalai Lama's Summer Palace, Lhasa, from 1998

By Zhao Pu

Last weekend, Liu Lei, 29, called several travel buddies for a get-together to tell them about his experiences during a recent journey to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. They all brought albums of new pictures from their recent trips, and they spent joyful hours telling stories and comparing shots.

Liu works as an architect at the Architecture Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University. In 1996, while a graduate student in architecture at Tongji University in Shanghai, he started a series of "architecture pilgrimages," that have taken him to all corners of the country seeking the spirit of traditional Chinese architecture.

With at least half of his many ventures focusing on architecture, he is no common tourist. "While others travel to enjoy scenery, culture and folklore or simply to relax, I go to check out architecture," says Liu.

An architectural pilgrim

Like every travel aficionado, Liu treasures the photo albums that record his numerous journeys. What makes his albums different is that the main target of his camera is architecture, and he has put together a collection of photos of old and beautiful houses, temples and gates that show the keen eye of a curious young architect.

His albums cover such far-flung sites as the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Wangshi Garden in Suzhou and Fengyu Bridge at Chengyang, Guangxi. Not only are they a testament to his travels, but they also represent years of research and serve as a useful reference for his architectural studies.

Though he had toured around eastern China several times with classmates during college in the early 1990s, his first architecture-inspired trip came in 1996, when he was "sent by a professor to investigate one of the country's four Buddhist mountains, Jiuhua Mountain in Anhui Province," recalls Liu.

He was assigned to sketch the structure of a Buddhist temple that sits high on the mountain. One morning, while working on a draft of Roushen Hall in the temple, he was suddenly captured by a stunning scene. A

thick morning fog rolled down through a skylight in the roof of the hall and flowed around the chamber, rendering the space hazy and mysterious. Liu says, "I think I really felt zen (禅意, meaning the spirit of Buddhism) at that time."

The trip left a deep impression on him and was the seed of his idea to continue his architectural pilgrimages. He has since scoured other parts of the country in the hunt for old buildings of different functions and from different eras.

On his personal website, named "pilgrim of architecture" (xingzhe.sinoaec.com), there are records of his three biggest trips in the past six years. They are "the water tour," which took him around East China in 1997, "the sun tour" of West China in 1998 and his "cloud tour" of Yunnan Province in Southwest China in 1999.

Liu says he has learned that "the best teacher of architecture is architecture itself." He claims to have learned far more about his field from inspecting old buildings he has come across in his travels than he ever did in school.

A happy solo traveler

Are his trips only about architecture? "No, of course not!" replies Liu. He says architecture makes up only about half of what these trips mean to him. They are, he adds, beneficial to him in many ways.

Liu, a loner by nature, seldom seeks company on his journeys. "I enjoy being by myself, and I think I get more out of the trips by hanging out alone," the young architect says.

His main motivation in traveling alone is absolute freedom. "I don't need to compromise my plans to meet the interests or physical conditions of anyone else," says Liu, "I can go wherever I want whenever I want to."

He adds that in the past, he often changed his plans on a whim, something he could only do as a solo traveler. "In 1998, when I finished a trip to Dunhuang and was about to return," recalls Liu, "I was filled with a yearning for the mysteries of Lhasa in Tibet." After quickly considering the practicalities of the trip, he hopped on a long-distance bus heading south into the Tibet-Qinghai plateau, with only 800 yuan left in his pockets.

Not only opening his eyes to architectural tradition and possibilities, Liu says his ventures have also brought him closer to nature. "I totally forget about the world I come from and get into the fascinating environments of the places I go on my trips," he adds.

Liu recalls, "I once sat on a hill with a bird's-eye view of a small village for half a day, observing real, unadorned life in the countryside. I once roamed up and down a stream near a block of old residential buildings in Huizhou, Anhui Province, admiring the graceful white and gray houses that created a scene like an ink and wash painting. And I once cried openly in front of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, overwhelmed by its grandeur."

According to Liu, travelling alone helps a person build a strong mind, and heightens the senses and one's mental flexibility. Of course not all is fun and games. His journeys have led him into danger, of both the natural and man-made varieties. Yet he is undaunted.

"Sitting in hole-in-the-wall restaurants in small towns on my journeys, I often imagine I am a brave swordsman, and my camera on the table is my sword. Maybe I just read too many martial arts novels when I was in school," he jokes.

For Liu, travel is also a good way of finding "personal space" away from often annoying ties to other people. His introverted journeys also serve as inspiration for his architectural designs.

Whenever he feels bored, he puts in for vacation and packs his bags. "When I return from a trip, I always feel refreshed, like a new person," says Liu with a grin. He says even his boss at the Institute understands how important travel is to him, and usually is all too happy to approve his vacations.

Creativity is key to pleasure and contentment

Generally speaking, Liu Lei is a restless person. In his own words, "I can't stand whiling away time doing nothing." Outside work, he maintains a busy, colorful life. He studies painting, calligraphy, seal cutting, and French as second foreign language. "Liu is a man of a real passion for life," comments Liang Yufeng, a close friend and former roommate of Liu's. "He's

energetic and always learns new things very quickly."

Liu has a deep love of traditional Chinese culture, influenced by his father, who taught him to enjoy traditional Chinese music as a child. Last year, he started to learn to play the *zheng* (箏), an ancient Chinese instrument. To celebrate his father's last birthday, he took his zheng back with him to his hometown of Jinan in Shandong Province, and gave a performance for his family.

That creativity is the key to pleasure and contentment is an idea firmly rooted in Liu's mind. "One should learn to make joy and fulfillment happen in life, instead of just waiting for them," he says.

From his ventures, his connections and his studies, Liu has amassed a large, diverse group of friends. They frequently get together at the Wofu Temple in the Fragrant Hills to sip tea and enjoy Liu's zheng playing.

On rainy days, he likes to take out his brushes and paper and practice calligraphy by writing his favorite poems. Whenever he bids farewell to a friend, he gives the person a paper fan covered with his calligraphy or a painting.

At work, his colleagues often greet him with, "Hi, what's up, artist?" The walls of his company's office are covered with dozens of photos taken during his travels, mostly of old buildings. Moreover, he often plays traditional Chinese music to create a more pleasant working environment.

Liu plans to write two books in the future, one focusing on travel and the other on architecture. He says he will write the travel book first, directed at others interested in traveling around the country in search of the spirit of traditional Chinese architecture. As for the architecture book, he plans to wait to write that one until he is a more seasoned professional.

"I plan to see all of China in my travels before I'm 30 years old and see lots of the rest of the world before I'm 35," says Liu. With only a few months standing between him and his 30th birthday, how is his plan for domestic travel progressing? "I'm almost done, I just have to get in a few more places, like Hainan and Guangdong," replies Liu with pride.



Liu works in the Architecture Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University.



Gardening is one of his many hobbies.



Liu and his travel buddies get together to share stories.



Liu has made fast progress on the zheng since picking up the instrument last year.

Photos by Zhuang Jian



Second-hand Rose — rockers with a sense of humor

By Zhu Lin

Rock 'n' roll emerged from China's underground bars last weekend. The exchange between musicians and fans at the Snow Mountain Festival in Lijiang, Yunnan Province, proved there is still hope for the genre in China. Although the crowd was well short of capacity, the festival marked a major step forward as a cooperation between the tourism and music industries.

Hot music wards off cold rain

Despite persistent rain, up to 7,000 people attended the first day of the weekend festival, the biggest ever outdoor music festival in China. Cui Jian, Ding Wei, Sun Nan and Zhu Zheqin kicked things off, and many people danced to the music.

The best band of the first day was *Chunqiu*, (Spring and Autumn). Their fluent heavy metal sounds drew an enthusiastic response from the audience. They were followed by *Second-hand Rose*, whose humorous lyrics often made the audience laugh. The last act of the night was Wang Lei, one of the best known rock stars in China, who gave a memorable and spontaneous performance that won wave after wave of cheers.

Few Chinese bands have had the experience of performing at an outdoor venue such as this one, and in front of such a large audience.

"I feel very good," said Wen Lin, singer from the band Yao

Shi Zi Yue, "I've never sung in such a natural and grand place."

Shaking hands with the tourism industry

The festival was held in Lijiang, one of the most popular tourist sites in China. The Yunnan Touring Agency caught the opportunity to promote the festival as an attraction for back packers.

"The biggest difference between festivals in China and in the west is that ours don't cooperate with the tourism industry," commented Zeng Wei, artistic consultant of the Beijing Music Festival last year. The Snow Mountain Music Festival may be a sign that this is changing.

Taking the chance to develop the tourism industry, the Lijiang local government built a road from the center of the city to the festival location.

Rock 'n' roll says yes to commercial profit

Despite the enthusiasm of



Singer Gao Lin



most cases, remains an underground musical form. Few bands are able to gain wide exposure, and thus have limited opportunity to develop. In this respect, the Snow Mountain Music Festival is a landmark event for the industry. It has generated a huge amount of publicity since being announced two months ago, and perhaps more importantly, interest from sponsors.

With various art forms looking for ways to survive in every country, rock 'n' roll in China is no exception. "I want to save Chinese rock 'n' roll by holding the Snow Mountain Festival," said Cui Jian, godfather of Chinese rock 'n' roll and artistic director of the festival. The only way to save the art form must be to link the cultural with the commercial.

both participants and festival goers, the event was only a modest success financially. The cheapest tickets were 300 yuan, and despite a 50 percent discount offered in the days before the opening, only 10,000 of a possible 30,000 tickets were sold.

Rock 'n' roll has little commercial recognition in China, and in

Digital Art Dominates Beijing's Cinemas

By Yi He

Stewart Little II has come to town, taking the place of *Spiderman* on Beijing's cinema screens. The two digital-domain movies have won over audiences world wide, following the trend of high-tech film productions this year.

Ever since the first of the *Star Wars* series set a new standard in 1977, the quest to produce more epic and more realistic special effects has continued. Digital effects satisfy the audiences' demand for excitement, and filmmakers' pursuit to realize their imagination. *Star Wars: Episode II* even left some in the audience feeling weightless. Not until they stepped out of the cinema, did gravity reassert its control.

Digitalization not only helps at the box office, it also cuts production costs. More than 100 characters in *Star Wars: Episode II* were created digitally. Using traditional techniques, it might have taken years to complete, and even then, much of what was achieved using a computer would have been otherwise impossible. By using digital technology, shots that would have cost thousands of dollars



Spiderman finally gets five million yuan of box office in Beijing.

to hand-draw, frame by frame, were created at a fraction of the cost.

Both *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings* caused minor sensations in China. What touched the audiences was the human atmosphere, rather than the industrial world. "I enjoyed the trick shots in *Spiderman*," said Yang Ying after seeing the movie, "But that's what attracts me after the plot. I think the story is a little bit simple, and that cannot be made up by the trick shots."

Artist's Dialogue Precedes Sculpture Exhibition

By Zhu Lin

Preparations for the 2002 China Beijing International City Sculpture Public Art Exhibition are almost complete. Some 230 works among over 2,000 entries from 40 countries having been selected for the show, which opens at the Beijing International Sculpture Park on September 7.

The stone sculptors are currently working on their creations at the Sculpture Park, which has become a center for dialogue between Chinese and overseas artists.

French artist Annie Baggenstoss will show her work *Dragon Bird* at the exhibition. The work combines the figures of dragon and phoenix together into one figure. "It presents humanity to the spirits in ancient Chinese legend," said Luo Min, director of Beijing White Snow Fine Arts Research Society who is also exhibiting work in the exhibition, "I'm excited about her idea."

When Chinese sculptors work together with those from other countries, they gain a

deeper feeling about the gap between the public sculpture here and the international standard. "One of our biggest problems is the separation of the process of design and manufacturing," says Xu Zhenglong, associate professor at Tsinghua Fine Art Institute. He says that the sculpting tools used here are far from advanced. Work that can be finished by one sculptor in the west must be done by a group of workers in China. Thus, the sculptor's original idea often gets lost during the manufacturing process.

"We did not realize this problem until watching the foreign sculptors work," said Wei Xiaoming, artistic director of the committee of the exhibition, "Hopefully, the exhibition will be a spur for our city sculpture and public art."

When: September 7 to mid October

Where: Beijing International Sculpture Park, 2 Yuquan Lu, Shijingshan District. (Take subway to Babaoshan)

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加裕华装饰

African Dance Delight

By Zhu Lin

African Footprint, the South African dance show performed in Beijing on August 11 and 12 at the Beijing Exhibition Concert Hall, and 14 at the Beijing Hotel.

The 80-minute show is a history of South Africa told through dances and some songs. It combines haunting pennywhistle and fuses the rhythms of ancient Africa with high energy Afro-fusion and dance, melding contemporary jazz, tap, tribal traditional gumboot and a uniquely South African version of Hip Hop.



Photo by Jackie

Nicholas Tse Farewells Show Biz — For Now

By Zhang Huan

Hong Kong pop star Nicholas Tse (Xie Tingfeng) is retiring temporarily in September, to return to being an "ordinary person."

Recently involved in a traffic accident and the center of a string of scandals, Tse held a good-bye party at Hong Kong's open-air market to thank his colleagues in the music industry for their support and help.

Tse's appearance caused quite a stir among the diners at the market, with many fans and tourists coming up to ask for his autograph. The star's behavior toward his fans was friendly, in contrast to his cool and rebellious stage image.



Nicholas Tse

WORLDWIDE

Family and Fans Mark Elvis Anniversary

Friday August 16 marked the 25th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley. Elvis's newly remarried daughter Priscilla and her movie star husband Nicolas Cage secretly visited Graceland (Memphis, Tennessee) in the early hours of Friday morning and watched from the mansion windows as fans carried candles to Elvis' grave in an all-night vigil.

Fans began gathering at Graceland early Thursday morning for the vigil, and continued their parade to the grave until about 9:30 am Friday. They carried candles and left poems and trinkets in the Meditation Garden where Elvis is buried.

Sandy Bates of Baltimore said she had been attending the annual vigil for years, but found this one the most inspiring. "He's been gone 25 years but he's still making all these people happy," she said. "You have to admire someone who can bring about all this loyalty in this day and age." (Associated Press)

Apollo 13 to Enter IMAX Theatres Next Month

Ottawa-based giant-screen pioneer IMAX is to release an enlarged version of *Apollo 13* next month, and has plans to screen more major films.

In 1970, the IMAX projection system revolutionized giant-screen



Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton and Kevin Bacon star in Apollo 13

cinema with projectors that used film 10 times larger than the conventional 35 mm frame — resulting in movies projected onto screens as high as eight stories.

However, theater exhibitors have been frustrated with what had been a dearth of commercially appealing IMAX movies to offer to the public; instead, the fare has been

education-oriented films that generate little box office buzz.

This autumn, Disney will make the unprecedented move of releasing its holiday film *Treasure Island* simultaneously in regular theaters and in IMAX and other large-screen theaters. (Los Angeles Daily News)

John Lennon Memorial

A memorial to former Beatle John Lennon has been unveiled in the remote Scottish village where he spent his childhood summers. From ages seven to fifteen, Lennon spent his annual vacation in the tiny village of Durness in the Scottish Highlands. Locals have marked his association with the area with a set of three standing stones inscribed with lyrics from the Beatles' track "In My Life".

"John would have been thrilled with this memorial," Lennon's cousin, Stan Parkes, 69, said Thursday. "He just loved Durness and the openness, the wild mountains, the lochs and all the rest of it."

(Associated Press)
Edited by Zhang Huan

Stuntman Escapes Knotty Situation

By Zhang Huan

Hundreds of people last week witnessed American escape artist Robert Gallup doing his thing while suspended 45 meters above the Great Wall, before flames burned through the ropes he was hanging from.

The proceeds of the ticket sales for this show have been donated to needy children in rural areas. At a press conference the following day, Gallup announced he would return at the end of this year and tour his show around China.

"My shows depend on my clever escaping skills, precise calculation of time, and good luck, and if I failed, I would die," Gallup said when comparing his shows with those of magician David Copperfield, who recently toured China. When asked whether he performed those shows for money, Gallup answered without a hint of a smile, "Life is precious and I did them to challenge myself."



Robert Gallup attempts to one-up Harry Houdini

Photo by Cui Jun

Stephan Chow Seeks Local Talent for New Movie

By Zhang Huan

Hong Kong movie star Stephan Chow (Zhou Xingchi) came to Beijing last Sunday to hold auditions for his new movie, which he will write, direct and star in.

Twenty-nine hopefuls tried out for eight roles, however none were filled. The performances of the candidates were apparently not as impressive as those given by a group of fans waiting outside. While the auditions were underway, a young fan jumped up and shouted, "Zhou Xingchi, give me a chance!" His boldness won cheers from the other fans, but not a role in the film.

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A Mosuo Girl's Beijing Dream

By Li Dan

This 10-square-meter store offers woodcarvings, album frames, ethnic and local dresses, wallets, scarves and handkerchiefs, all with Naxi Dongba pictographs and patterns.

The owner, Danshi Namu, grew up beside Lugu Lake and has collected and brought her relatives and friends' handicrafts to the city. "My mom is a Mosuo (摩梭) woman and dad a Lisu (傈僳) man, and I am a Mosuo girl," says the 21-year-old girl.

The ancient Mosuo people live around the Lugu Lake, which is situated at the junction of Southwest Sichuan and Northwest Yunnan. To this day, they retain their matriarchal society and strange wedding customs.

The Mosuo people are one of the branches of the Naxi nationality, and one of the most popular and distinctive expressions of Naxi culture is the Dongba script in Lijiang, an extraordinary system of pictographs that was used by the Naxi shamans called Dongba.

"I am sure there's no other store in Beijing that's dedicated to Naxi Dongba crafts and Mosuo culture," says Namu.

She points at a wood carving on the wall with characters meaning "a happy family".

There are over 30 kinds of woodcarvings hanging on the wall in the store.

"My wind-bell is made of bronze — bronze is considered the best when Naxi people give gifts to each other," says Namu, "this head ornament is my mother's gift to me when I was 13 and had my coming of age ceremony," says Namu, "it is so important to me that though I hang it in the store, I will not sell it."

A white pleated skirt hangs in the store, selling for 800 yuan. It is said Mosuo women wear this kind of skirt which has 365 folds symbolizing women's 365 days of hard outside work in a year. They are in charge of most aspects of society.

Namu says that when she was very young she longed to go to Beijing "Now I hope more and more people will one day visit our hometown and see it with their own eyes."

She knows little of English but one of her neighbors speaks fluently. "Sometimes he is our interpreter introducing customers to Dongba and Mosuo culture."

Where: Naxi Handicrafts Store, 88-11 Wangfujing Street, south of Dong Tang Church. **Price:** woodcarvings 20-1,000 yuan, among which more than a half are under 100 yuan; scarf 15 yuan; sackcloth wallet 40 yuan. **Open:** 10am-11pm. **Tel:** 13683634281 contact Namu.

Woodcarvings with Naxi Dongba script:

- ① A happy family (sky, house, woman, man and child), 120 yuan.
② A tree between two lines, standing for the sky and the earth, 180 yuan.
③ The creation, 600 yuan

Photos by Li Shuzhuan



Glass Glamour

By Salinda

Most Beijingers have never seen the glass decorations from Ritzenhoff, a German company, but now Raphaele has become the exclusive agency store in Beijing.

The products' value depends not on the glass, but on the design.

"108 designers from all over the world participate in making the glass decorations. Some of the designers had a hand in designing decorations for the British royal family. New exhibition concepts and ideas are involved in everyday items", says the owner, Chenjie.

The store is packed with an array of glass items with fantastic shapes and merry colors; ashtrays, milk cups, beer cups, candle lamps and vases that have an intriguing design catch the eye.

An ashtray made of heavy crystal glass is bound to appeal to the more dignified smoker. Decorated by hand and carefully packaged in velvet-lined cases made of cigar-box wood, each crystal ashtray is a shining argument in fa-

vor of the new culture of smoking.

Beer cups are available as fat cups, cone cups and cups with a handle. The fat cups are fit for the serious beer drinker. Each cup comes with a coaster to absorb foam.

"The glass items in the store are imported from Germany," Chen says. Their prices are reasonable. "Our aim is to make top designer products available to ordinary people." The average price is around 200 yuan.

Where: Raphaele, 8 Jianneidajie Suite 217-218, Tower C, COFCO Plaza, Chaoyang District. **Open:** 9 am-9 pm. **Tel:** 6525 2117.



Milk Glass



The shop is more like an elegant art exhibition.

Photos by Li Shuzhuan

A Sweeter Note

By Yu Yang

If Beijing opera players can be likened to a flower, and Jinghu (a two-stringed bowed instrument with a high register) players can be likened to a leaf, Jinghu makers can be taken as planters.

Li Yunzhi, born into a well established Jinghu family, has been making Jinghu for about half a century.

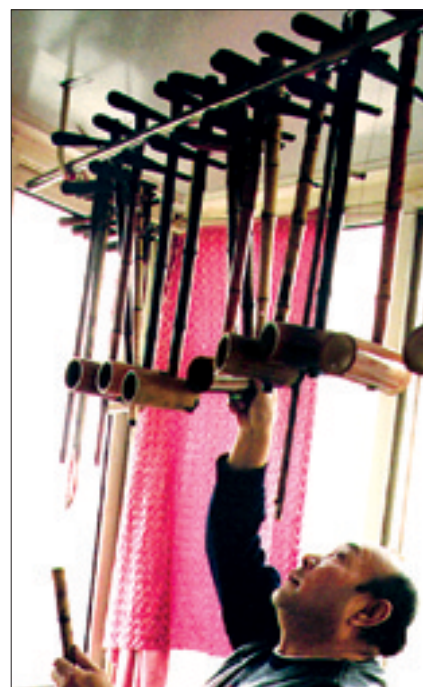
His Jinghu are not only instruments, but works of art. Some professional players and opera fans collect them.

"An opera fan, Liu Houzong, took a fancy to one of my instruments and could not be parted from it. He even kept it at his side while sleeping," says Li, proudly.

As a senior Jinghu maker, he once worked in the Beijing National Instrument factory. After retiring, he opened his own instrument factory and shop.

Li explains the making of a high-grade Jinghu.

A high-grade Jinghu depends on its materials, technology, tone color and volume. Choice of materials is important. They are strictly limited according to their tone.



Li Yunzhi and his Jinghus

Bamboo tubes and poles are most important. The bamboo separates Zi Zhu, Luohan Zhu and Fengyan Zhu. Their size and thickness have strict standards. The

bamboo tube should be sturdy with a smooth grain. The holes should be big and well distributed, giving a mellow and full sound.

The cover on the tube is made of snake-skin. The snakeskin should be black like satin and white like thread so that it gives a crisp and clear sound.

"Good materials without perfect technology will not make a high-grade Jinghu." Li is famous for the perfect technology he uses.

In his shop, eight grades of Jinghu with high to low tones are offered. Their prices vary according to materials, technology, tone color and volume. Jinghu priced below 1,000 yuan are fit for ordinary opera fans; Jinghu costing over one thousand yuan are fit for professional players. The most high-grade instruments are made to order by Li Yunzhi; please order in advance.

Besides Jinghu, other national instruments are provided: pipa, erhu, suona, drums.

Where: Yunzhi Instrument shop, 96, Nanxinhuajie, Xuanwu District. **Open:** 9am-6pm. **Tel:** 6304 7193.

Photo by Li Shuzhuan

Tailor Made

By Ian Provan

Finding the perfect little cocktail number does not necessarily entail trawling through countless boutiques. If your wardrobe is lacking that perfect little black dress — a la Chanel, or perhaps you require a slightly over the top evening gown — the alternative to buying off the rack is having one tailor made.

Hua Na, a tailor shop hidden away at the back gate of Beijing International Exhibition Center, specializes in western style dress and costumes for stage and screen. Turn on your TV to the musical channel (you know, *that* musical channel) and chances are, the performers will be wearing Hua Na creations. Just the thing to turn a few heads at the next office party!

Zheng Zenghua, the owner and manager of Hua Na, studied fashion design at Tsinghua after cutting her teeth in the industry working for the Beijing label Hua Biao. She established Hua Na in 1982. At first, the company mainly designed and made stage costumes, but over time, it has built up a clientele among Beijing's expat community.

There are a couple of options when it comes to the design of your made to order frock, gown or suit.



Zheng Zenghua

Photo by Ian Provan

You can take a favorite article of clothing to be copied, in your choice of material, or you can simply show Zheng a photo from a fashion magazine, and she will recreate it in your size and shape.

Prices depend on the type of fabric used; whether it is imported, made for export, or made for domestic use. An evening or cocktail dress might cost around 950 yuan, including material, while a man's suit might cost from 1,000, to 3,000, again, depending on the cut and the cloth.

Where: 21 Xibahe Zhongli Chaoyang District. **Open:** 10am-7pm. **Tel:** 6463 3009.

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In Season



Foods to Beat the Summer Blues

By Jiang Zhong

Chinese people have a custom of putting on weight at the arrival of autumn, called *tie qiu biao* (贴秋膘), by taking foods rich in fat.

According to the principles of Chinese medicine, the heat and beating sun of summer can put serious wear and tear on the human body. Moreover, excessive nutritional intake during the warm season can result in weight loss and weaken the functions of the internal organs.

Since these negative reactions cannot be regarded as symptoms of any illness, doctors of traditional Chinese medicine suggest restoring a healthy state in the body by adopting seasonal treatment diets in the first month of autumn.

Fish, eggs, taro, jujube, lotus root, lotus seed, milk, beans, vegetables, chestnut, pumpkin, longan, sesame, walnuts, silver mushrooms, bee honey, rock sugar and pears are all ingredients in such diets. Normally, they

are boiled in combination into medicinal porridges. These foods were also commonplace in the meals of imperial families in ancient China. Throughout the country's history, emperors sought after foods and medicines that could prolong their lives. To meet their masters' demands, imperial physicians created both useless "pills of immortality" and special diets that contained ingredients considered helpful to improving health, with the goal of finally finding one combination that would bestow eternal life.

Their efforts were of course made in vain, and some paid a terrible price for their failure, being buried alive next to the coffin of their emperor.

Common Chinese were not able to afford these exotic medicinal ingredients, but did put some faith into their health-restoring functions. As a result, many tried to put together similar meals with the cheapest ingredients available on the first day of

the change of the season, even if they had to borrow money to do so.

The most popular seasonal treatment dishes include Guiyuan Tongziji (spring chicken boiled with longan), Dazao Baihetang (soup made with jujube and lily) and Nuomi Lianzizhou (congee made with sticky rice and lotus seeds).

As autumn approaches, many Chinese restaurants in the city are preparing seasonal treatment diets for guests interested in restoring their organs' health. New ingredients, many of which come from provinces in southern China, have been added to the traditional repertoire.

Where to try medicinal foods for autumn:

Hongzhuangyuan Congee Restaurant. Add: 93, Xisanhuan Beilu, Haidian District. Tel: 6841 5079

Baizhouxiang (world of congee). Add: first floor of Boning Huayuan, Zaoying Beili, Maizidian, Chaoyang District. Tel: 6507 9656

Bridge Bar Offers New Escape at Houhai

By Joel Kirkhart

This summer has seen massive development in the nightlife in the Houhai area. Following in the footsteps of the Blue Lotus (now the Left Bank) and the "No Name" bar, new gin joints have sprung up all over along the banks of the lake near Yindingqiao.

A new entrant is the Bridge Bar, which stands just to the east of the Kaorouji restaurant. The ground-floor of the Bridge Bar is pleasant enough, with a little bridge at its entrance and funky lamps bathing the space in reddish light, but it is not the real

reason to give the bar a shot. The bar's ace-in-the-hole is its second floor terrace that rests above another restaurant and looks directly over at the crowds milling about the bridge. There is seating for around 20, consisting of wide wicker chairs and even some comfy couches.

Drinks are standard prices and potency for the Houhai area, meaning less than Sanlitun, and the 15 yuan Qingdao drafts are unmatched nearby. Snacks are available, though fries tend to be of the limp and mushy variety. A better snack option is to call down to the chuan'r dealers



Photos by Li Shuzhuan

on the street below, who will bring up their meat sticks at a cost of five mao each. Food can also be ordered from the restaurant downstairs. As the summer winds down, Bridge

Bar's terrace is a great, low-key alternative for getting in one's last tastes of the outdoor Houhai nightlife before it is forced to quiet down and move back inside.

Spicy Love Soup

By Wang Dandan

Wanji Malatang, a small restaurant located near the Beijing International Exhibition Center, is not famous and never advertises, but still packs them in, its reputation spread from mouth to mouth. The only items on the menu are malatang, and *suanlafen*, Sichuan sour and spicy noodles. Prices are rock bottom, 0.5 yuan per skewer of vegetables and 1 yuan for meat, so a filling, nutritious meal can cost as little as eight or nine yuan.

The restaurant's small size, only nine tables, often leads to lines at the door. And though air-conditioners crank all day, the crowded atmosphere and steam pouring off pots of boiling broth can make for a sweaty meal.

The initial experience at Wanji can seem unimpressive, but eating there improves dramatically over time. The key to Wanji's malatang is its sauce.

A delicious mix of salt, chilli, garlic, vinegar, soy sauce, Sichuan peppercorn oil, fried beans, fried peanuts and cilantro, the sauce is not only an excellent compliment to the fresh meats and vegetables, but also good enough to slurp on its own.

The secret to the sauce's magic is the Sichuan peppercorn oil, brought in directly from its home province. Sichuan pepper-

corns, or *huajiao*, are crunchy, spicy little berries that are known for being *ma*, or numbing. In Wanji's sauce, they have a noticeable effect, numbing out the tongue and taste buds. They are an acquired taste — some equate the flavor of hotpot with Sichuan peppercorns to soup cooked with tiger balm - but if given time, the combined hot, cooling and numbing sensation produced by crunching on the berries can prove addictive.

As the summer heat continues, spicy foods like malatang can be surprisingly refreshing. Eating dishes laden with red peppers induces perspiration. Traditional Chinese medicine advises that sweat expels bodily toxins, purges the humors and helps equalize body temperature. As perspiration evaporates, it has a convecting effect, thereby actually cooling off the chili-consumer.

Over thirty kinds of fresh, thinly cut vegetables and meats are on hand daily for dipping in the spicy broth.

Owner Wan Renliang is only too happy to tell customers the best times to cook each kind of food, such as 10 seconds for tripe, 30 seconds for mu'er (an edible fungus) and 5 seconds for all green vegetables.

Once one's tongue gets used to the spicy fire of the meal, there is an extraordinary range of delicate flavors to be found behind the chili barrage.

Add: 200 meters south of Beijing International Exhibition Center



Getting Creative with Italian, Local Staples

By Wang Dandan

One of the prominent Italian restaurants in the capital is Peppino's in the Shangri-la Hotel, which is replete with red-and-white checked tablecloths and olive oil and vinegar on the table. Present chef in residence at Peppino's is Walter Lanfranchi, a genuine Italian import who is striving to make authenticity and creativity the themes of the restaurant's fare.

For one thing, he offers monthly specials that highlight the cuisine of one region of Italy. He is not afraid to stretch out, though, and get more inventive by incorporating local or exotic ingredients in his creations, resulting in more fusion-like dishes. His cooking is marked by both professionalism and passion. "You can't be a cook if you don't like cooking," Lanfranchi says bluntly.

A childhood interest in cooking

When Lanfranchi was 13 years old, his sister opened a restaurant in Bergamo, Italy, where he often helped out after school. At first, simply chopping potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers was a thrill, but he soon tired of prep-chef work and started making his own dishes, which drew raves from his family.

After four years of professional chef training in Italy, Lanfranchi got his first job as an assistant to the head chef of the Salvo Italian restaurant in England at the age of 18.

"That first step was not easy, I had to take care of all the little stuff," he says, adjusting his chef's hat.

A new imperial taster?

Lanfranchi insists on strictly checking the food that comes into the restaurant every day, tasting nearly everything that enters the kitchen. He regularly



A creative combination of East and West



Lanfranchi puts the finishing touch on a plate of ...



... duck-stuffed dumplings

tries four or five kinds of fruit in one day, and sometimes up to ten. "This might be the reason why I keep so fit," he jokes.

Driven by imagination

"I like to be imaginative," says Lanfranchi, pointing to a leaf garnish on a dish. "Whenever I see something I've never seen before, or something fresh, like this leaf, I think of ways to use it to create a dish."

In one imaginative offering, he puts roast duck-stuffed ravioli into a pumpkin shell to create dish that tastes both of Beijing and Italy but looks totally original. It's a delicious combination that might not occur to a Chinese chef.

Nothing edible falls outside of his creative eye, leading to him to come up with such specialties as meat rolled in banana leaves and rice cooked with squid ink.

Filling both chef and teacher roles

As he works in the kitchen, Lanfranchi tries to impart some cooking wisdom to his Chinese colleagues. His doing so seems to run contrary to a traditional Chinese saying that,

"if a teacher instructs his students too well, he will starve to death."

When asked about this concern, Lanfranchi laughs and says, "I can teach them how to cook one or two dishes, but they will never surpass a real Italian cook. Do you think I can make better dumplings than a Beijing chef?"

"Cooking itself is pretty easy," he continues, "but it's difficult to make something creative, and being creative is what's most important."

In an amazingly short space of less than ten minutes, Lanfranchi prepares and plates four dishes for Peppino's customers. "Keeping a guest waiting is very embarrassing," he says.

Bee Cheng Hiang Roupu

By Li Dan

In the old days in China, before the advent of refrigeration, excess meat left over from festivals and banquets was preserved for later consumption using mainly sugar and salt. The resulting product, similar to western meat jerkies, developed into a delicious delicacy, called *roupu* or *rougan*, meaning dried meat.

Roupu is often given as a gift to relatives and friends, as its reddish hue is considered the color of fortune and prosperity. Its complex flavor is simultaneously sweet, savory and smoky, and very hard to resist.

Bee Cheng Hiang

(BCH), a Singaporean company known as "Mei Zhen Xiang" locally, has been operating out of a stall in Wangfujing for almost a year. BCH's rroupu is prepared and grilled according to a traditional secret recipe and contains no preservatives or artificial coloring.

Unlike many other rroupu makers, BCH still uses genuine charcoal to roast its meat in order to preserve its original aroma and prevent it from spoiling. The resulting product is a fragrant, shiny strip of surprisingly tender meat.

Outside of original pork rroupu, BCH also offers Chili Pork, Minced Pork, Chicken Coin, Sliced



Small Eats (小吃)

Chicken and Sliced Beef varieties, all of which carry its signature sweet and smoky flavor. Other choices are cotton-like pork and beef floss, also traditional Chinese products.

Where: Bee Cheng Hiang (美珍香), 88 Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District.

Price: 65 yuan / 500 g

Open: 9am-10:30 pm

Tel: 6527 5363

Beijing by the Bayou

By Lao Ma

It's heartening somehow to realize that the best-tasting food originates not from imperial kitchens but from the bubbling melting pot of humbler folk.

New Orleans, settled by the French in 1718, was ceded to the Spanish in 1766. These colonists eventually intermarried. Their offspring, born in New Orleans, are Creoles. Africans, West Indians and American Indians combined their traditional heritage and spices with the Creoles to develop Creole food. Today the Creole's idea of cheap stew has traversed oceans and continents to Louisiana, a restaurant on the second floor of the Beijing Hilton Hotel.

This upscale eatery offers the city's best Cajun and Creole cooking.

No one agrees on the exact origin of the word 'gumbo' which is perfectly OK, as no one agrees on an exact recipe either. The final flavor usually depends on whatever is available in the kitchen — oysters, crabs, shrimp, chicken and/or sausage.

The Louisiana serves several choices of gumbo including seafood and steak and mushroom.

But those familiar with the Hank Wil-



liam's classic will also want to try the jambalaya, distinctly different from gumbo, more of a hearty rice dish. The Louisiana has excellent live jazz every night and also must have the longest wine list in the capital city. Save room for dessert — pistachio crème brûlée and fresh fruit or pecan pie with cinnamon whipped cream are particularly recommended.

There is also a wide selection of steaks and other classic American dishes.

Add: Louisiana Beijing Hilton Hotel. Hours: Monday-Saturday 11:30-14:00 18:00-22:00 Tel: 6466 2288 7420

Activities

Shunyi Motorbike Meeting

Bikers from the US, Europe and elsewhere will get together to talk about on bike skills, and play games with great music. Activities: best looking bike, longest ride, best looking girl rider, tattoo show, shops (selling helmet, jacket, shirts), Miss Agri-Landia easyrider 2002, price for the oldest bike and the ugliest bike, sausage catching, melon eating competition, pig catching competition. Food: BBQ, pizza, sausage, watermelon and variety of drinks. Bring tents and sleeping bags.

Where: Agrilandia, Shilipu, Nanfaxin Shunyi County. **When:** August 31 - September 1. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6947 3133.

Climbing Lecture

Two climbers from the US, Daniel Mazurt and Jon Otto will give a lecture on climbing, rock-climbing and ice-climbing. **When:** August 31, evening.

Lecture with spicy crayfish. From August 21, crayfish are sold at 15 yuan per plate. **Where:** Xingshecongcong Bar. **Tel:** 6846 3550.

The Emperor's New Clothes



We face the same situation as those who watched the emperor who was tricked into wearing nothing. Cultural conflicts between eastern and western management and communication styles frequently cause problems and inefficiency, yet nobody really talks about them. Organized by NewLeaders, this will explain some of the common cultur-

ally related problems and help people understand how to identify potential areas of cultural conflict and to resolve them. **Lecturer:** Professor John W. Lombard (bilingual - Chinese and English). **Where:** Capital Club, 50F, Capital Mansion, 6 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** August 30, 2:30-5:30 pm. **Tel:** 8460 5661.

International Newcomers Network
Making Beijing your home. Handle culture shock and new environment, tips on employing an Aiyi and driver, shopping for household essentials. For foreign passport holders.

Where: Capital Club Athletic Center, 3F Capital Mansion. **When:** August 26, 10 am - 12pm. **Admission:** 30 yuan, 10 yuan for child care. **Tel:** 8486 2225 ext. 136.

Beijing Photo Group

Professional photographers, amateurs get together discussing something related to photography. **Where:** Jam House, South Sanlitun Bar Street. **When:** every Sundays. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 13910 534743.

Chinese Paintings



Come be impressed by the ease with which the artist creates beautiful landscapes, animals, scenes right in front

people's eyes. The class is not just visual, and people can learn about the history and types of Chinese paintings. Limited to 20 people per workshop, so please sign up via mail, telephone, fax or in person. **Where:** Cafe Imagination. **When:** September 4. **Admission:** 30 yuan. **Tel:** 8532 1199 ext. 41. **Fax:** 8532 1679. **Email:** angela@monin.com.cn

YPHH Moet & Chandon Night

Drink the queen of drinks, 3 glasses for 150 yuan. **Where:** Merchant Prince Club. **When:** September 4, 8-10 pm. **Email:** www.yphh.com.

Dining Out

Australian Shiraz Blind Tasting

Where: Hilton Hotel Beijing. **When:** August 30. **Price:** 98 yuan per person. **Tel:** 6466 2288.

Vietnamese Food Festival

Dishes made by master chef from Furama Hotel Danang. A la Carte available for luncheon. **Where:** Silk Road Trattoria, Great Wall Sheraton Hotel. **When:** September 3-10. **Price:** buffet dinner 175 yuan per person. **Tel:** 6590 5566 ext 2117.

Coffee Garden

Perfect solution for a hang-over with high tea buffet starting from 12 noon and ending at 4 pm, you have no worries. Saturday and Sunday, 12 pm - 4 pm, 98 yuan per person. Buy two get one free. **Where:** the Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6561 8833.

Exhibitions

Lacquer 8 • 56

Lacquer means the art of lacquer; eight refers to eight participating artists; 56 stands for diversity of possibilities. Traditional lacquer paintings are always two dimensional, but modern ones are moving towards the three dimensional.

Highlight



Exhibited works in Japan Media Arts Exhibition (provided by www.cafa.com.cn)

Japan • China Year 2002

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, Japan Media Arts Exhibition will give Chinese youngsters a general picture of Japanese media through manga, animation, games and digital arts. Selective awarding works from the 5th Media Arts Festival, Agency for Cultural Affairs, include digital images, digital ani-

mated cartoons, comics, lectures and also concerts. Japanese cartoonists, cartoon director and comic artists will be on the spot to talk with audience.

Where: Art Museum of the original Central Academy of Fine Arts, 3 Shuaifu Hutong, Dongcheng District. **When:** August 24 - September 1. **Admission:** 8 yuan, 4 yuan for kids. **Tel:** 6527 7991, 6528 4343.

Where: Wan Fung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** August 24-30, 9 am - 5 pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6523 3320.

Autumn Art Exhibition

More than 30 oil works by Li Mingzhu, Feng Feng, Xiao Se, Xiao Hong.

Where: Qin Gallery. **When:** August 31 - September 5. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8779 0461.

Classical Mathematics Toys

Ancient mathematics toys such as seven-piece puzzle, nine chain rings, Lu Ban's lock, and historical materials showing the relationship between toys and mathematics.

Where: China Science and Technology Museum. **When:** till August 27. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6237 1177.



Painting at Qin Gallery

Exhibition at Soka Gallery

Sharp New Sights - China Post-new-generation artist joint exhibition. Young artists are able to react to the social reality and trends of thoughts sharply, and it is usually their art works that first catch and express the subtle changes in society. Chinese artists born in the sixties or seventies have been called the "Post-new-generation," because their growth coincides with China's adoption of its policy of reform and opening up and their field of vision is wider compared with those in earlier years.

Where: Soka Art Gallery, north end of Silk East Street, Chaoyang District. **When:** August 24 - September 12, 10 am - 9 pm (Closed Mondays). **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6586 0344.

Health

Health for Everyone School

Topic: The therapy and recovery of cerebro-vascular diseases. **Lecturer:** Zheng Ping. In Chinese. **When:** August 29, 2-3:30 pm.

Topic: Osteoporosis therapy. **Lecturer:** Tang Hai. In Chinese. **When:** September 5, 2-3:30 pm.

Where: Meet at the entrance of the basement hall, Beijing Friendship Hospital, 95 Yong'an Lu, Xuanwu District, bus 6, 15, 35, 822 to Youyi Yiyuan. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6301 4411 ext. 3482.

Hiking

Wall Walk

Route: Great Wall hikes offer great views, since it is mostly built on along ridges. After the wall hike in February that some people graded a difficulty 10, some hikers expressed concern about safety. This time it will be a safer place.

Where: Huairou County of Beijing. **When:** August 24. **Pick up:** 8:30 am at Lido outside Starbucks. **Return:** 5 pm. **Walking time:** four hours.

Qinglongxia

Where: Huairou County, north of Beijing. **When:** September 1, 8:30 am - 5 pm. **Email:** bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

Movies

In The Heat of the Sun

Directed by Jiang Wen, starring Xia Yu, Ning Jing, 1995. A masterpiece of modern Chinese cinema, the story is from an autobiographical account of director Jiang Wen's misplaced adolescence in Beijing during the height of the Cultural Revolution. It follows the opportunistic aimlessness of a group of teenagers who have too much free time when school is canceled and the world around them is being turned upside down. Xia Yu won best actor award at the Cannes Film Festival for this movie.

Where: Cherry Lane, Hilton Hotel, Beijing. **When:** August 23, 8 pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6461 5318/9.



In the Heat of the Sun

Springtime in a Small Town

With English subtitles. **Where:** Dongchuang Cinema, 3 Xinzhong Jie, Dongzhimenwai, subway or bus 24, 44, 815 to Dongzhimen. **When:** August 22, 8:30 pm. **Admission:** 30 yuan. **Tel:** 6415 7332.

Rebels of the Neon God

Directed by Cai Mingliang, starring Chen Shaorong, Wang Yuwen, 1992. Hsiao-Kang takes a refund on his cram school tuition and opts for the bright lights of downtown Taipei. He comes across Ah Tze, who he clearly remembers as the bike-riding vandal who once hit the family taxicab. Hsiao Kang follows Ah Tze and his girlfriend Ah Kwei through the heavy rain to a hotel and quietly plots to haunt Ah Tzes beloved motorcycle....

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, Haidian District. **When:** August 24, 7 pm. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 6279 1280.

Charging out Amazon

Directed by Song Yeming, starring Hou Yong, Mu Lixin. Adapted from a true story about two Chinese special technical soldiers who go to an international training school in South America. Winner of Best Effects Prize at the 9th Beijing University Students Film Festival.

Where: Dongchuang Cinema, Dongzhimenwai. **When:** September 5, 8:30 pm. **Admission:** 30 yuan.

Winners

Chinese movie with English subtitles. Directed by Li Fuwu, starring Li Shen, Wu Xiaoli, 2001. A brother and his younger sister try to find a way to fit into "nor-

mal" society. The brother, a cripple, walks with the aid of crutches. His sister, a dwarf, is only one meter tall. The story follows their hardships and efforts to overcome the indifference and prejudice of the world around them.

Where: Century Theater. **When:** September 6, 8 pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6461 5318/9.

Prova d'orchestra (Orchestra Rehearsal, 1979)

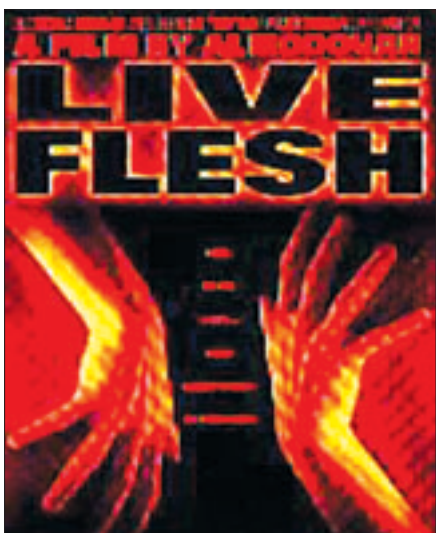
Directed by Federico Fellini, Italian with English subtitles. In a Medieval Roman chapel, now an oratorio, an elderly factotum sets up for rehearsal. The musicians arrive, joking and teasing, and they talk about their instruments. The German conductor arrives and puts them through their paces and retreats to his dressing room and talks about how the world of music has changed, moving away from respect of the conductor. He returns to the rehearsal to find the orchestra in full revolt.

Where: Cultural Office of the Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'er Jie. **When:** August 29, 7 pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6532 2187.

Present

Directed by Oh KiHwan, starring Lee YoungAe, Lee JungJae, 110 minutes.

Where: Cultural and Press Dept of the Korean Embassy, 38 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang District. **When:** August 30, 5 pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8453 8112/3/4



Poster of Live Fresh

Live Fresh

Directed by Pedro Almodovar, starring Javier Bardem, Francesca Neri. 1996, 101 minutes.

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House. **When:** August 31, 7 pm. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 6279 1280.

Music

An Ear to the Ground

Organized by Logistix, sponsored by the Volkswagen Sound Foundation, this month's An Ear to the Ground features Wild Strawberry and Catcher in the Rye. Catcher in the Rye, founded in 1994, has released two albums *Catcher in the Rye* and *Save as...* in 1998 and 2000. Its rock style is pretty lively. Wild Strawberry is an all female beautiful rock band, composed of four twentyish young women, whose style is fresh pop rock.

Venue to be decided. **When:** end of August **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 8404 9602/3/4 ext. 802.



Wild Strawberry



Catcher in the Rye

Rock at the Get Lucky

Only as happy night, August 24. Red Crystal, August 25. Happy to Death, August 30. Spring and Autumn, Purple Loop, Lonely Summer Day, August 31. **Where:** Get Lucky Bar. **Tel:** 6429 9109.

New Bars

Club Fm

DJs Weng Weng and You Dai is to bring a wider variety of sounds, jazz, funky, ethnic, house, 70's rock. Mixed drinks 35 yuan. Happy hour: every Thursday, 9-10 pm, buy one get one free for beers and mixed drinks.

Where: on the right of the south gate of Ritan Park, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 8562 2308.

White Cube

Where: 38 Maoer Hutong (go north into Di'anmenwai Dajie, cross the bridge and turn right at the first lane on the right, then the big white building). **Tel:** 6401 1675.

Performance

Swan Lake

By Global Ballet Troupe, composed of professional actors who have grown up with this classic music.

Where: Beijing Beizhan Theater. **When:** August 24-25. **Admission:** 120-600 yuan. **Tel:** 6835 4455.

Realm of Desire

Performed by Beijing Modern Dance Company, the performance features their understanding of the Seven Deadly Sins of western literature. Composer and director: Cui Kai, from Beijing Modern Dance Company.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. **When:** August 25, 7:30 pm. **Admission:** 10-60 yuan. **Tel:** 6599 8285.

Drama: Confucius

Directed by Zhang Guangtian. Performed by Guangzhou Drama Troupe. The story happens from 1971 to 2002. Actually the Sage just concludes peoples' ideas.

Where: People's Art Theater, Wangfujing Dajie. **When:** till September 1, 7:15 pm. **Admission:** 80 yuan. **Tel:** 6528 7675/7750 ext. 198/508.

Peking Opera

Monkey King, every evening; *The Broken Bridge*, *Eighteen Arhats Fight the Monkey King*, Fridays; *Picking up the Jade Bracelet*, *Havoc in the Dragon's Palace*, Saturdays; *Farewell My Concubine*, *Monkey King's Havoc in Heaven*, Sundays.

Where: Zhengyici Theater, Xuanwu District. **When:** 7:30 pm. **Admission:** 80-280 yuan. **Tel:** 6528 7675/7750 ext. 198/508.

Reminders

The Great Wall treasure hunt, September 15, 9 am - 3 pm, 350 yuan per person, www.yphh.com

We enter a new world, video of cave adventure, Xingshecongcong Bar, August 23, evening, 6846 3550.

Fun trip to Huairou, August 24-25, www.yphh.com

Passion on the Sleepers, People's Art Theater, September 3-7, 7:15 pm, 6528 7675/7750 ext. 198/508, www.piao.com.cn/english

Adventure of cultural heritage, late September, 8451 8767.

Sports

Beijing Hash House Harriers

Dirt box - full moon hash, Horse Creek Restaurant (near Schiller's 2), August 23, 7 pm.

Ratchucker and no beer required and noddly, annual Lido hash, gather at Mexican Wave, August 25, 11 am. **Email:** RDRhead@uop.com

Football

Chelsea vs Manchester United live, August 23, 2:55 am (Saturday morning). Manchester City vs Newcastle Utd live, August 24, 7 pm. West Ham Utd vs Arsenal live, August 24, 9:55 pm. West Bromwich Albion vs Leeds United live, August 24, 0:30 am.

Where: Club Football Center, Red House, 10 Taipingzhuang, Chunxiu Lu, Dongzhimenwai. **Tel:** 6417 0497.

Translation Service

An experienced English language translator, who helps those having trouble in understanding oral and written Chinese. my cellphone number is: 13161 012340, or mail to wuqiang1975@163.com

Weather

Friday August 23 Cloudy to clear
Max: 32C. Min: 20C.

Saturday August 24 Clear to overcast, showers
Max: 28C. Min: 19C.

Sunday August 25 Overcast, showers to cloudy
Max: 27C. Min: 19C.

Monday August 26 Cloudy to overcast, showers
Max: 28C. Min: 18C.

Tuesday August 27 Overcast
Max: 29C. Min: 20C.

Wednesday August 28 Cloudy to overcast, showers
Max: 29C. Min: 19C.

Thursday August 29 Overcast to cloudy, showers
Max: 27C. Min: 18C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2520.

By Priscilla

Way of the Pilgrim

From: Cishan Temple, Shijingshan District
To: Badachu, Shijingshan District
Via: Shuangquan Village, Cuiwei Mountain

By Jiang Zhong

The Cishan (慈善 kindness) Temple on the mountainside of Tiantai (天泰) Mountain bordering Shijingshan (石景山) and Mentougou (门头沟) districts has been restored in the last three years.

Owing to its famous history, monks of the nearby temples have moved to live in the forest surrounding the Cishan Temple.

Most of the monks come from the Ling-guang (灵光) Temple of Badachu (八大处), site of the eight imperial temples and shrines built in Sui (581-618), Tang (618-907), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

The hiking route the monks follow between the two temples offers a chance to admire the 'most beautiful valley' of Shijingshan and also the remains of the temple's historic splendor.

The hike should begin at Cishan Temple because it is easier to find a city-bound bus or hire a taxi at Badachu, the eventual destination of the hiking trip.

Cishan Temple offers shelter from the sun and the noisy world outside. A one-hour stroll around the temple is useful to store up energy for the upcoming hiking adventure.

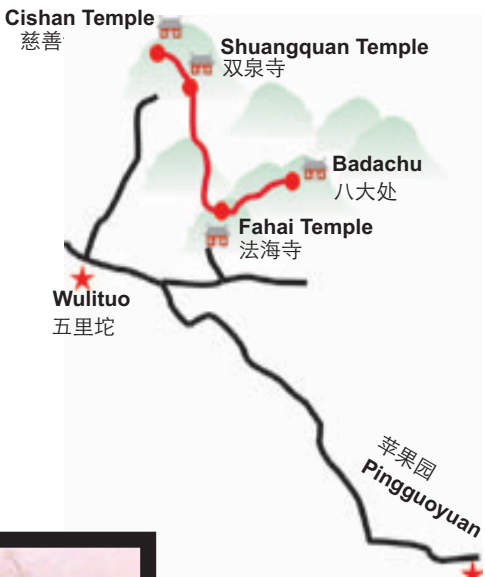
The monks living with local families can be seen farming in the surrounding fields. Sometimes, in the shadow of the ancient aspens, they sit on the stools made of tree stumps for the whole afternoon doing some sewing or repairing the farming tools.

Twenty minutes' hike eastward along the road by the temple's brick pagoda leads to Shuangquan (双泉 double springs) village.

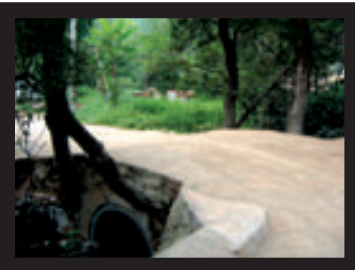
A Buddhist statue carved in the North Wei Dynasty (386-534) is worshipped in a booth built by the villagers. Also a stone bridge constructed in the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) runs over the 30-meter-deep valley.

Hikers can rest by the ruins of Shuangquan Temple. A fire in the 1940s destroyed the halls, but the stone tablets and fragments of paintings on the remaining door frames show the former splendor of the ancient temple.

"Drought threatened the lives of the villagers in the 1520s," says 74-year-old shepherd Zhang Defu. "The villagers decided to



Emperor Shunzhi of the Qing Dynasty used to live in the hall of Cishan Temple Photos by Jia Sen



Bridge guarded by four ancient pine trees near Fahai Temple

build a temple to worship the Longwang (king dragon who is in charge of distributing rainfall).

"When the villagers dug one meter underground, two springs came out.

"They didn't stop the construction of the temple. They first built canals to channel the springwater to the pool in the center of their village. Then they finished constructing the temple in the following two years. In this way they showed their respect for the king dragon."

It is said that water ran beneath the stone bridge 60 years ago before the two springs dried up.

The rugged path leading from the eastern mouth of the village to Cuiwei (翠微) Mountain is surrounded by dense vegetation, and it widens to function as a firebreak.

Black mosquitoes with white stripes try to force outsiders to turn back but on a rock standing in the center of the route someone has painted the Chinese characters "jia you" (move on, don't give up!).

Ten minutes' descent along the path hiding under the brush in the south of the route leads to what is known locally as 'the most beautiful valley in Shijingshan'.

Sheltered from the sun by elegant pine trees, people chat and drink tea here. The drop in temperature down in the valley can freshen up worn-out travelers in ten minutes.

Elderly people playing Chinese chess say that the famous Fahai Temple is another twenty minutes' walk down the path.

Frescos of the temple and the exhibitions of ancient frescos around China are worth a visit.

Outdoor Actions



Mountain road passing Fahai Temple

You can return to the route after resting in the valley or visiting Fahai Temple. Sunsets in the mountains are picture postcard perfect.

Moving on, a 40-minute walk brings you to Badachu. A ticket office has been set up. Only ten months ago, hikers enjoyed free admission (no ticket office was set up ten months ago). Badachu treats travelers to a leisurely getaway among ancient cultural relics.

Tips: The hike takes four hours.

Getting to Cishan Temple:

Subway to Pingguoyuan, bus 336 to Wulituo, taxi to Tanyu (潭峪)

Cultural Tour

Disappearing Charm of Hutongs

By Jiang Zhong

Residents living in the hutongs at Erlonglu (二龙路) are bidding a sad farewell to their old residences.

Two thirds of the hutongs in this area have been knocked down in the past year. Modern buildings now overshadow the remaining one-story residences. The real-estate developers aim to bulldoze the remaining hutongs soon with the aid of roaring caterpillars.

The remains of the former glory of Erlonglu are now concentrated around Guangningbojie. Even the old jujube trees remain in this area.

However, at some hutongs, people gather before the advertising boards of real estate agents to select their new houses. So it's becoming urgent to document the elegance of these hutongs before they're gone forever.

At No.17, Guangningbojie, five families share twenty houses in a large courtyard. Carvings of flowers representing everlasting blessings are included in the intricate brickwork here.

Bridge balusters are included in the carvings adorning the entrance to the No.12 quadrangle of Jizhiwei Hutong. No.29, 31 and 35 of the hutong have colorful paintings adorning the door and intact menduns (tow stone carvings on both sides of the door). The paintings present pavilions, pools and willows, part



Mengrui Hutong at dusk Photos by Lu Shan

of the traditional rural Chinese scenery that can also be found in the Long Corridor of the Summer Palace.

There are small-sized courtyards in Houlou Hutong. At the courtyard of No.3, ancient-style Chinese characters are carved on the door planks. Jujube fruit in the shape of calabash are on the tree in the courtyard.

Mengrui Hutong is a beautiful sight at dusk. Outside Lulu-ba (驴驴把) Hutong, children are picking jujube fruit in the ruins of a recently destroyed residences. In the east, the workers are removing a wall constructed with heavy bricks, which were borrowed from the ancient walls that once surrounded the Forbidden City during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Apparently, they're going to be used to re-



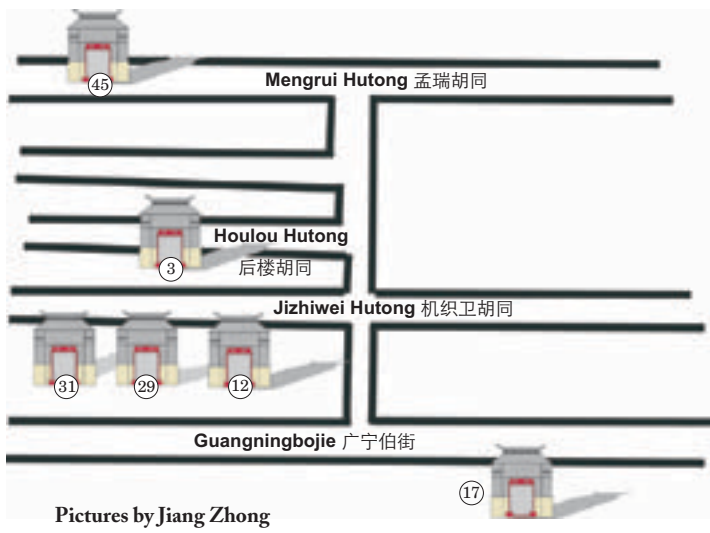
One-hundred-year-old wooden door of No.3, Houlou Hutong

build part of the ancient walls.

One kilometer to the west of the Guangningbojie, chaos surrounds the ancient Huoshenmiao (火神庙 Taoist Temple of the God of Fire), already nestled among the modern buildings of the capital's financial street. In the main hall where statue of Lü Dongbin, the initiator of Taoism, is worshiped, the candles flicker and are blown out as heavy trucks roar past in the street behind the hall.

Tips: No. 25 Guangningbojie, Xiangxi Guildhall (Liaison Office of Xiangxi Tujia Autonomous Prefecture) offers local dishes.

Getting to the hutongs at Guangningbojie: Subway to Fuxingmen, taxi to Picai (辟才) Hutong.



Pictures by Jiang Zhong

Leisurely Getaway

Horse Happy

By Jiang Zhong

Man Xu, a 13 year-old schoolgirl, has had exciting summer holiday experiences at Beijing Shijingshan Country Riding Club (北京乡村马术俱乐部 Beijing Equestrian Team) over the last three years.

Her father, a horse lover, bought a horse from Australia for her in 1999.

"It is still an expensive pastime for most Chinese people," said Man Tianhua, Man Xu's father. "The coaches told me that one can afford to buy a horse, but feeding and training it is very expensive."

It was impossible for Man to feed the horse in his house in the city. So he sent his new family member, as he calls it, to the stables of the Country Riding Club at Shijingshan, where his first horse had been fed for two years.

For each of his horses, Man has to pay the club 1,000 yuan every month.

Zhang Yening, general director of the club, says, "yes, it is expensive. But we believe in providing equestrian excellence to Chinese people."

Despite making continuous losses since the club's founding in 1989, Zhang has imported some twenty horses from Denmark, Germany, England and Australia.

"We know how important the horses are for a professional rider. So we have invested as much as possible in importing horses."

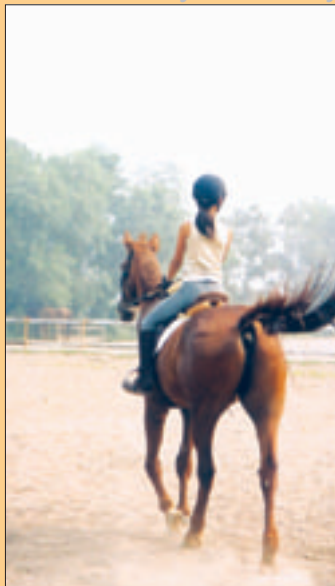
"Beijing won its first gold medal in the team show jumping event at the national athletics meeting in 1997. The riders of the Beijing delegation all come from our club," says Zhang.

The club imports coaches from Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang, which have the strongest equestrian teams in China.

"We also invite foreign coaches for important events."

In fact, Country Riding is not the best-equipped equestrian club in Beijing.

"But we have created a comfortable living environment for the horses and pleasing training



Man Xu is practicing for the contest held on August 18

Photo by Lu Shan

conditions for the owners. We have been endeavoring to enhance the friendship between human beings and horses," says Duo Li Kun, a coach from Xinjiang, who will sleep beside a sick horse until it recovers.

Many children like Man Xu are being trained in the Country Riding Club. Every six months, contests are held among young riders.

"The children are better than their parents," says Duo Li Kun. "They are more fearless than the adults and they understand the game better. The hope of Chinese equestrianism lies in the next generation."

The Country Riding Club offers training courses in dressage and jumping. The medals and championship cups are displayed in the corner of the club's lounge, where riders and trainees can exchange riding experiences.

"The rules of the club meet international standards," says Zhang Yening. "Horses are the real owners of the club."

Getting to the Country Riding Club: Subway to Bajiao (八角), walk to the club by Bajiao Youleyuan (八角游乐园 amusement park).

VIP joining fee: 62,000 yuan; **annual fee:** 12,000 yuan.

Joining fee for foreigners: 40,000 yuan; **annual fee:** 12,000 yuan. **Hourly fee:** 150 yuan